

Portfolio

£22,000 to be won

Today's Times Portfolio prizes total £22,000 - £20,000 in the weekly competition plus £2,000 in the daily.

Heseltine accused of Westland blackmail

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, has been accused of using bribery and blackmail, innuendo and slurs in the Westland helicopter rescue struggle.

Bright forecasts for economy

Britain will have a growth rate of 2.3 per cent next year, and lower inflation, steady, or slightly falling unemployment and a big balance of payments surplus, according to economic forecasts.

Border war spreads

Burkina Faso accused Mali of breaking a ceasefire as the border war between the countries spread inland. Mali said several people died in a town in the south of the country when it was attacked from the air.

MPs' interests

MP's business and commercial consultancies have increased by 10 per cent in the past year. The Commons register of members' interests shows that 51 new consultancies have been taken on and 19 lost.

Swazi anger

Swaziland accused South African troops of violating its border and threatening residents who they claimed were harbouring ANC members.

Trident farewell

British Airways' three remaining Trident 3s are out of service on Tuesday, a few hours before they would have been rendered illegal by regulations.

Israeli warning

Israel has told Syria it can tolerate no longer the new anti-aircraft missile deployments in east Lebanon.

Gandhi's lead

Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, pointed to the future as the Congress party celebrated its centenary.

Chile protest

Hundreds of women demonstrated against Chile's military regime in Santiago, voicing the hope that 1986 would see a return to democratic rule.

Pollock century

Graeme Pollock, the South African cricketer, scored a century against the unofficial Australian team in Durban.

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Palestinian link suspected as Israel vows revenge on 'beasts'

Carnage as terrorists strike at airports

Italian Minister of the Interior last night told his cabinet that 14 people had died in a terrorist attack on Rome airport at 9.10am local time.

Three people died and 40 were injured in another terrorist attack a few minutes later at Vienna's Schwechat airport.

Yesterdays attacks were reminiscent of anti-Israeli suicide missions on civilians in the early 1970s, and Israel looks certain to retaliate.

By Our Foreign Staff

At least 17 people died and 100 were injured as gunmen firing wildly and hurling grenades attacked Israeli airline check-in counters at international airports in Rome and Vienna yesterday.

The twin attacks, which ended in gunbattles between the guerrillas and anti-terrorist units, brought an expression of outrage from Israel and a vow to strike back at what it called the "beasts" responsible.

Yesterdays attacks, reminiscent of the anti-Israeli suicide attacks on civilians of the early 1970s, began at Rome's Leonardo da Vinci Airport when four gunmen threw grenades and fired on the El Al and Trans World Airlines check-in desks.

Fourteen people, including three gunmen, were killed and more than 60 injured. The gunmen died during the ensuing gunbattle with Italian police and Israeli security guards. Another gunman was wounded and captured. Among the dead were three Greeks, two Americans and two Mexicans.

A few minutes later, at Vienna's Schwechat airport three gunmen rolled hand grenades along the floor towards the El Al check-in desk and fired on the crowd around it, killing three people and injuring 40. Despite heavy fire from security guards the three gunmen escaped.

After a short chase one was killed and the other two captured, one severely wounded. According to the police the captured man said he was from Lebanon.

Investigators at the Rome airport believe that both attacks were organized by Abu Nidal, the Palestinian leader who has links with Syria and Libya and is a sworn enemy of Yasser Arafat. The link is based on a forged Moroccan passport found on one of the dead terrorists at Rome which is similar to those found on the hijackers of an Egypt Air aircraft a month ago.

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Injured passengers sprawling on the floor of the Rome airport breakfast bar.

Vienna's morning of horror

From Richard Bassett Vienna

Three people were killed and about 40 injured in the terrorist attack at Vienna's Schwechat airport yesterday.

The attack occurred at 9.15am Central European Time, when three heavily armed terrorists rolled hand-grenades along the floor towards passengers queuing to check-in for the 10.45am El Al flight to Tel-Aviv.

At least three grenades exploded instantly killing Herr Ekhard Karner, a fifty-year-old Austrian civil servant travelling with his wife and child. Both mother and child are reported to be in a critical condition. A second person who died from grenade wounds was later identified as Mr Eli Gana, an Israeli citizen.

As the first explosions subsided, the terrorists started indiscriminate fire with automatic rifles, reported to have been Kalashnikovs. Austrian anti-terrorist units, known as "Cobra", which are permanently on duty near the check-in desks returned the terrorists' fire.

According to eye-witnesses the 100-yard long departure lounge was transformed into a battle field; screaming passengers running for cover while molten lead rained down from behind abandoned pieces of luggage. It is not clear how many of the wounded were injured in this fierce cross-fire which lasted several minutes.

Despite a hail of automatic fire from Austrian policemen armed with modern Steyr-Daimler achine pistols, the terrorists were able to escape.

Continued on page 4, col 1

Machine guns and bombs kill 14 at Rome airport

From Peter Nichols, Rome

In a matter of seconds a suicide group of Arab terrorists reduced a section of the crowded international terminal at Rome's Leonardo da Vinci Airport at Fiumicino, to a scene of carnage yesterday morning.

The four attackers, armed with automatic weapons and hand grenades, struck at the furthest end from the main entrance of the terminal building, where passengers for an El Al flight for Tel Aviv and two TWA flights for Athens and New York were checking in or eating breakfast at the newly opened bar opposite the airline desks.

The terrorists began the attack at 9.10 am local time by entering the building with the main stream of passengers and then throwing a bomb at the El Al desk.

At the same time, a second terrorist opened fire with a Kalashnikov machine gun in the direction of the bar. About six people were immediately killed and the terrorists then began to fire indiscriminately into the crowd.

A second bomb was thrown behind the TWA desk, which adjoins the El Al desk, and exploded inside a rubbish container. Meanwhile, Israeli security guards, Italian police and carabinieri had reacted immediately to the terrorists, and the indiscriminate shooting was transformed into a desperate gun battle which lasted several minutes.

Fourteen people, including three terrorists, were killed. The other terrorist was injured and arrested. About 60 other people were hurt, several of them seriously. They were taken to seven Rome hospitals.

The terrorists had another 11

bombs with them, which they had no time to use because of the swift response of the security forces.

The scene immediately after the gun battle was of frightening devastation. Bodies of dead and injured passengers who had attempted to flee for the exit when the shooting began were lying on top of each other.

Huge glass windows were destroyed and desks shattered by the powerful bombs and the hundred or so bullets fired.

Police, soldiers and firemen hastily barricaded the whole section C of the terminal building with partitions and screens to prevent anyone entering or looking at the terrible scene until the investigators had completed their work.

Air traffic was blocked for four hours and up to a quarter of the space in the international terminal was made unusable, with the result that the airport was soon packed with travellers waiting for flights.

Those who had not heard of what had happened earlier in the morning were given graphic accounts by other passengers.

Once the airport was reopened shortly before 1 pm, notices about flight departures showed that delays were between three and four hours.

Motor traffic had been stopped to make way for police cars, ambulances and fire brigade lorries. Then a huge jam of cars built up taking people to the airport or trying to pick up passengers who had been due to arrive in the course of the morning.

Police insisted that passengers had to leave their cars some distance from the terminal and finish the journey on foot carrying all their baggage.

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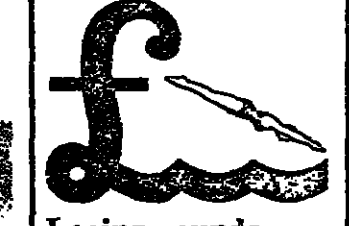
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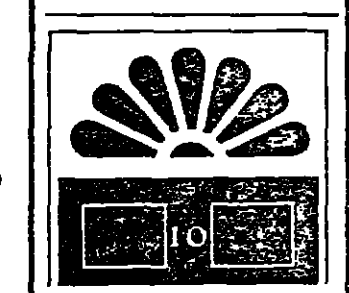
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MONDAY



A year of hope and despair
The Times Review of 1985

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Afloat in eighty-six
Dreaming at the Boat Show

Leaders to exchange greetings Reagan address on Russian TV

President Reagan and Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, are to address the people of each other's nations on New Year's Day, the White House announced yesterday.

By mutual agreement, President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev will exchange New Year's greetings, the announcement said. Their messages will be recorded and made available for broadcast on radio and television at 1800 GMT on New Year's Day.

The surprising announcement is an indication of the wish of both men for warmer relations after the November summit. And it fulfils President Reagan's repeated call for direct television access to the Soviet people. It will be the first time an American president has made a television address to the Soviet Union since President Nixon did so during a visit to Moscow.

Mr Charles Wick, the director of the US Information Agency and a close friend of Mr Reagan, first proposed to exchange addresses in January this year, in a letter to Mr Leonid Zamyatin, head of the Soviet Party information department. He never received an answer.

The White House said yesterday's announcement came after a renewed US proposal through diplomatic channels during preparations for the Geneva summit. Washington received a "positive response" in the past three or four days, Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, said. "We, of course, believe this is an important event," he added.

He said: "Mr Reagan will record his message today in his suite at the Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles, where he is spending his New Year holiday. The tape will be given to the Soviet Embassy. Mr Gorbachev's message will similarly be recorded in Moscow and delivered to the US Embassy. It will then be sent by diplomatic bag to the State Department and be made available to American broadcasting networks.

Each side will provide a written translation of the address. It is up to the Soviet and US broadcasting bodies to decide whether to use the translation or subtitles. Each leader's address will be about five minutes long. Mr Speakes said the subject was "basically open" but the greetings were expected to be "in the spirit of good intentions".

The Russians have implicitly promised not to cut or edit Mr Reagan's remarks as they have attempted to do in previous years with televised messages by the US Ambassador in Moscow.

Mr Reagan's message will also be carried by the Voice of America. Washington has been unable to guarantee to the Russians that Mr Gorbachev's message will be broadcast in full, as US television companies are privately owned. But the three main networks are all expected to broadcast at least the bulk of it.

Test ban call, page 4

Stabbed siege girl 'doing well'

Carlene Roberts, the girl aged 4 who was stabbed in the neck during a 29-hour siege in a council flat was "doing well" in a children's ward at Mount Vernon Hospital, west London, yesterday.

At another hospital, police were waiting to interview Mr Errol Walker, who is recovering after an operation to remove a police bullet from his head.

Mr Walker, aged 29, was shot by police when they stormed a council flat in Northolt to end a siege which began on Christmas Day when Carlene's mother, Ms Jackie Charles, was stabbed to death. The Hospital for Nervous Diseases in Holborn said he was "satisfactory and improving steadily".

Police defended their handling of the siege, which ended with stun grenades being hurled through the flat windows. Police then smashed their way in and one officer fired three shots at Walker.

Police wait, Page 2

First big snowfall cheers Scots skiers

Snow and blizzards swept across northern and central Scotland yesterday, making driving difficult but providing ideal skiing conditions.

Mr Mike Lawson, the area tourist officer for the Aviemore and Spey Valley tourist board, said: "Good snow falls were reported within a 30 mile radius of the Cairngorms yesterday and last night, persuading resort managers to predict a better start to the ski season in the new year. Most Highland ski resorts had at least five or six inches of snow yesterday."

Until yesterday only one high-level ski run has been operating in the Cairngorms because of lack of snow, and problem most resorts through-out Europe have been experiencing, the Cairngorms Chairlift Company said.

Aberdeen had five inches of snow yesterday, and snow ploughs were brought out to clear roads in the area, the Automobile Association said.

The AA warned drivers to take extra care today in areas affected by snow and also to beware of icy conditions on roads in most parts of Britain.

Floods, which affected most parts of England on Christmas Day and Boxing Day, subsided yesterday except in Kent, which also had sleet and snow showers.

The Thames Barrier was reopened early yesterday and many roads which were impassable earlier were back in use.

The A2 road into Dover was closed because of high winds and a part of the A20, near Maidstone, was also closed because of flooding.

The AA reported busy holiday traffic throughout Britain but there were no big traffic delays. In the West Country, badly hit by floods on Boxing Day, all main roads in Avon, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall were open yesterday.

Forecast: Dry and increasingly cold with frosty conditions in most parts of Britain. Snow in Scotland, Northern Ireland and northern England spreading slowly south on high ground. Photograph, page 2

THE HIGHER YOU CLIMB, THE CLOSER TO PARADISE

At the foot of the Himalayas as they slope from the roof of the six, lies Kashmir. All cool, green hills, shining lakes and fragrant blossoms. A garden of Eden nestled above the plains. And a marked contrast to India's hotter, spicier climes.

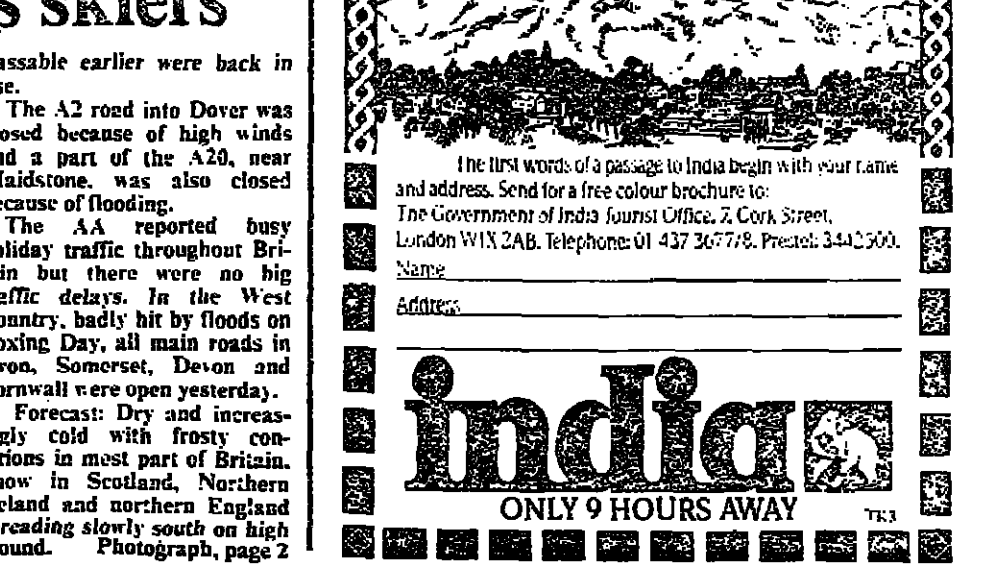
But then India is a land of brilliant contrasts. Palm-fringed beaches and scores of modern hotels. Magical temples, forts and palaces.

Each of them a thing of rare beauty. And Kashmir, some say, the most beautiful place of all.

Indeed, when you're there, it's easy to believe you're not that far away from heaven.

The first words of a passage to India begin with your name and address. Send for a free colour brochure to: The Government of India Tourist Office, 7, Cork Street, London W1X 2AB. Telephone: 01 367778. Postcode: 3442000.

Name _____ Address _____



MPs' business links increase by 10% in year, Register shows

By Anthony Bevin, Political Correspondent

There has been a 10 per cent increase in MPs' business and commercial consultancies over the last year.

An analysis by *The Times* of the Commons Register of Members' Interests shows that MPs have picked up an extra 51 consultancies with outside businesses, while 19 have been lost, an increase of 32. At the beginning of the year, there were 310 registered consultancies.

A significant number of the new deals, under which MPs advise their client companies, are with banking and City firms, although two privatized companies have also taken on MPs to act as consultants.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, the former Secretary of State for the Environment, has been taken on by Arthur Andersen and Co, the management consultants; Sir Eldon Griffiths, Conservative MP for Bury St Edmunds, has become adviser to Samuel Montagu Bank; and Mr Nicholas Soames, Conservative MP for Crawley, is now adviser to the Sedgwick Group.

Mr Michael Portillo, who was elected Conservative MP for Enfield, Southgate a year ago, has become a consultant to Grieverson Grant, stockbrokers and to British Airways; Mr Michael Morris, Conservative MP for Northampton South, has become a consultant to Hill Samuel, Wood Mackenzie and Underwoods (Cash Chemists); Sir William Clark, Conservative MP for Croydon South, who already advises Commercial Union Assurance and Texaco, has also become an adviser to Tate and Lyle.

Mr Robert Atkins, Conservative MP for South Ribbles, who is a parliamentary consultant to Wang (UK), has also become parliamentary consultant to Royal Ordnance PLC; and Mr William Shelton, Conservative MP for Streatham, a director of Shelton Consultants, now lists Panasonic (UK) as a client company.

The *Times* diary has recently reported that Mr Ian Wigglesworth, SDP MP for Stockton South, has become an adviser to Barclays Bank.

Television and cable interests appear to have attracted a number of Conservative MPs. Mr Cranley Ouslow, chairman of the Conservative backbench 1922 committee, has deleted his consultancy with Rediffusion-Radio Systems, but he has joined the board of that company and has also become a director of Rediffusion plc. He was already a director of Argyll Group and consultant to Bristow Helicopters.

Sir Peter Blaker, Conservative MP for Blackpool South, has become chairman of Central Lancashire Television; Sir Paul Bryan, Conservative MP for Boothferry and a consultant to Granada Group, has become chairman of Croydon Cable Television; and Mr Simon Coombs, Conservative MP for Swindon, has become a director of Wyvern Television Ltd.

Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody, Labour MP for Crewe and Nantwich, has become a director of Dunwoody Computer Services.

The latest edition also shows the range of benefits sometimes on offer to MPs.

Mr Terry Dicks, Conservative MP for Hayes and Harlington, has registered the "loan of a car by Taylor Woodrow plc; Mr Winston Churchill, Conservative MP for Manchester Davyhulme, has been presented with a Wang "office assistant"; Mr Paddy Ashdown, Liberal MP for Yeovil, has registered the "trial loan" of British Telecom equipment for three or four months; and Mrs Angela Rumbold, the new parliamentary under-secretary at the Department of the Environment, has declared the "gift of an atlas from British Airways".

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A motorist ploughs through flood water yesterday at Easing, Surrey, where the Wey burst its banks after torrential rain over Christmas.

Evangelists crusade by satellite

By Gregory Neale

A Christian evangelist conference, believed by its organizers to be the largest of its kind ever held, linking more than 90 venues around the world by satellite television, begins today, centred on a building in London's dockland.

The Expto 85 conference is being organized by the California-based Campus Crusade for Christ. The crusade was founded in 1951 by a businessman, Mr William "Bill" Bright, to evangelize in American universities and colleges. It now has 16,000 full-time and associate staff throughout the world, and has since spawned specialist groups among athletes, doctors, business executives and others.

The conference is being held over the next four days, linked by satellite broadcasts coordinated at the Limehouse television studio in London.

More than 500,000 people are expected to attend the event, and many millions to see some of the proceedings by way of videotape, cable and broadcast television, crusade organizers said yesterday.

The event's blend of fervent evangelism and highly complex technical organization are personified by its two chief coordinators, Mr Michael K. Clifford, a former musician who produced the anti-abortion television programme, *The Silent Screamer*, and Mr Louis "Lou" Falcigno, who made his name and a considerable amount of money from organizing worldwide television broadcasts of two of Muhammad Ali's boxing contests.

Mr Clifford said earlier that the conference would be "bigger than Live Aid, bigger than the Olympics... it's a credit to the enthusiastic commitment of thousands and thousands of Christians."

He continued: "Organizationally and technically, nothing like this has ever been attempted before... But big isn't the point - souls saved is the point."

Mr Falcigno, reflected yesterday that handling Muhammad Ali fights had prepared him for this even larger organizational feat, as he and a team of assistants dealt by telephone, telex and satellite with the final preparations.

"A satellite dish has fallen over in Zimbabwe," he said, "solving problems like that is what we are having to do. We are going into places which have literally never seen television before."

Each day the conference will have a different theme.

Union considers eligibility curb to get round secret ballot law

By Donald MacIntyre, Labour Editor

The plan could lay the union open to legal challenge but advice given to it by the TUC is understood to suggest that such a system might be held to conform with the Act. The move would mean that only those belonging to regional councils - membership of which varies between regions from 40 to just over 100 - would be eligible to run.

Another option being discussed by a working group which is due to report to the union congress next June is to allow the regional committees to nominate candidates. Such candidates would clearly have a better chance of succeeding than those who lacked regional committee endorsement.

No clear view has emerged on what should be done about regional secretaries who tend to play a dominant role on the executive. One option would be to keep them on but deprive them of their right to a vote, thus removing the need for them to be elected.

Mr John Edmonds, who takes over next week as the union's general secretary, said the union was very concerned to maintain its regionally-based structure. "A major difficulty we face is that the legislation as framed is not appropriate to a federal structure like ours."

The UCU will next week consider its next step after being notified that one of its Birmingham members has approached the Certification Officer for a ruling on whether the union is within its rights to run the May elections under the old branch system. The union's executive had previously decided not to change the rules unless the issue came to a head.

Although a number of options, including postponing the elections will be discussed it seems increasingly likely that the union will conform with the Act and run the elections by a mixture of postal and workplace ballots. The union is due to consider at its annual conference in May a proposal that there should be ballots before all industrial action, as the law now requires.

Such a decision would make the UCU another prime candidate for taking government money, particularly as the TUC conference in February is likely to take a clear decision to reverse its five-year boycott of state cash for ballots.

Challenge to Ulster boycott call

The Lord Mayor of Belfast, Alderman John Carson, who is also an Official Unionist member of the Northern Ireland Assembly, is to challenge his own party and the Democratic Unionists over their joint call for the public to boycott charities which invite Northern Ireland Office ministers to their functions.

The joint working party running the Unionist campaign against the Anglo-Irish agreement called last week for such charities to be shunned, has since faced angry criticism from charities and voluntary organizations, all the main churches, other political parties and the Ulster public.

Alderman Carson called on the two Unionist parties to withdraw their boycott demand and enlarged on his criticisms of last week.

"It has been a very embarrassing move and I don't think it has done our cause, to oppose the Anglo-Irish agreement, one bit of good. I have had tremendous support for my earlier statement and I believe many members of my own party and the DUP feel the same way," he said.

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Fears over talks on EEC poll

By a Staff Reporter

Labour MEPs are alarmed that the party is to consider ending direct elections to the European Parliament.

Mr Leslie Hunkfield, who sits for Merseyside, East, saw it as "a precursor of a much more serious attempt to restrict the activities of MEPs and their constituencies."

On Thursday, Mr George Foulkes, shadow spokesman for foreign affairs, said that some Labour MPs had asked if the cause of Europe might not be advanced if there were a return to the system by which Euro MPs were nominated by parliamentary parties in the member countries.

Mr Hunkfield said yesterday that during the last European elections, many constituency parties had to fund their entire campaigns because party headquarters had seemed afraid of what they might say about coming out of the EEC.

The Labour Party received about £250,000 from European sources to fight that election, but it was used in the overall national campaign.

Mr Hunkfield, who is a leading member of the group dedicated to British withdrawal from the EEC, said: "The idea of reverting to indirect elections seems very much to be going in the direction of stopping MEPs continually reminding the party of our policy of withdrawal."

"In the not-too-distant future I can see some senior Labour Party leaders arguing in favour of proportional representation for elections so that candidates can be chosen centrally, and, therefore, be much more tightly controlled."

Some of those on the left of the party, among them 12 MEPs in Europe, are clearly wary of any extension of patronage for the party leadership, and see the ideas floated by Mr Foulkes, or the use of proportional representation as in other EEC countries, offering better opportunities for that patronage.

The objective was to save the life of the little girl, he said.

Mr Clive Soley, Labour spokesman on home affairs, said that the use of stun grenades with a child present was worrying.

The Times overseas selling prices: Argentina \$2.25; Belgium 8.50; Canada \$2.25; France 10.00; Germany 10.00; Greece 10.00; Hong Kong 10.00; India 10.00; Italy 10.00; Japan 10.00; Korea 10.00; Luxembourg 10.00; Malaysia 10.00; Mexico 10.00; Netherlands 10.00; New Zealand 10.00; Norway 10.00; Portugal 10.00; Singapore 10.00; South Africa 10.00; Spain 10.00; Sweden 10.00; Switzerland 10.00; Taiwan 10.00; Thailand 10.00; United Kingdom 10.00; USA 10.00; West Germany 10.00.

Royal Navy alarmed at dwindling merchant fleet

By Our Defence Correspondent

The Royal Navy has expressed "great concern" over the decline of the British merchant ship and fishing fleets. The comment is contained in the official Royal Navy *Broadsheet*, circulated every year to retired naval officers.

An unsigned article says that there are clear reasons for the decline of those fleets, but goes on: "The truth is that our trade, and supplies of fish are largely being carried in or caught by foreign ships."

"From the Royal Navy's point of view this is unsatisfactory because we continue to require merchant shipping and, most important, loyal and capable crews support us in reinforcement and other military tasks."

"If the decline in the UK merchant fleet continues for several more years at the present rate it could become increasingly difficult to discharge our Nato obligations, at least in certain categories of vessel."

"It is of little consolation to know that many ships sailing around under flags of convenience are not necessarily British crewed and we are losing trained manpower."

This is one of the most forthright comments made by the Navy on the subject. Increasing ministerial concern that a problem may be developing has been reflected in the commissioning by the Ministry of Transport, in conjunction with the Ministry of Defence, of a study covering parts of the merchant fleet for which there is a defence need.

The letter re-affirmed that the European governments concerned had said that if Westland accepted the Sikorsky-Fiat offer they would wish to review Westland's participation in the NH90 and battlefield helicopter programmes.

The directors of Westland are expected to consider the revised European offer on Monday.

Mr Horne's letter said the European consortium was concerned that Westland shareholders so far were aware of the details of the Sikorsky-Fiat offer. The consortium hoped that it would be possible for a joint statement to be made with Westland's early next week recommending the European offer to shareholders.

There has been some expectations that Sikorsky and its parent company, United Technologies of America, would improve its offer. However, Mr Peter Cadbury, of Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank acting for them, said United Technologies would not be drawn into an auction.

Move to put UDM on all joint bodies

By Our Labour Editor

The National Coal Board has served formal notice that it intends to reshape the industry's 38-year-old bargaining and consultative machinery with the clear intention of bringing the breakaway Union of Democratic Mineworkers (UDM) on to all national negotiating bodies.

The board has told all five recognized unions in the mining industry that they have until May to agree on a new constitution for the key joint bodies in the industry, including the Joint National Negotiating Committee which regulates wages and the Coal Industry National Consultative Council, whose discussions include pit closures and the size of the industry.

The move will be widely seen as more encouragement by the coal board for UDM, which claims to have more than 40,000 members or applications to join.

Although the UDM is already formally recognized by the board in Nottinghamshire and South Derbyshire, the latest action means that it will enjoy national negotiating rights for the first time.

The discussions which the board is seeking would fix the proportions of NUM and UDM members on the bodies and decide whether both would be represented on the same negotiating committee for miners of whether there would be two.

Although the move could be challenged by the NUM in the courts, the board takes the view that it is acting within the terms of the 1947 Coal Industry (Nationalization) Act.

Meanwhile, the UDM complained yesterday that the board's industrial relations department had allowed the NUM to send recruitment forms to retired miners and widows in Nottinghamshire, along with their fortnightly pension slips. Mr Roy Lynk, the UDM general secretary said that officials had been "inundated" by complaints from retired members worried that they could lose their pension rights if they failed to join the NUM. Pensioners were advised by UDM officials to burn the forms.

Industrial tribunals in Edinburgh have unanimously decided that four miners were unfairly dismissed during the year-long dispute by the National Coal Board and should be re-employed.

But another four miners who were among the first to bring cases before the tribunals were unsuccessful. They were found to have contributed to their dismissals.

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Noisy Tridents retired after 21 years

By Edward Townsend

The Trident, the only all-British designed and produced three-engine jet airliner, will be finally retired by British Airways on Tuesday after almost 21 years of service.

Only three remain operational, Zulu Victor, Zulu Oscar and Zulu Uncle, from the original British fleet of more than 70.

The last flight will be the evening shuttle on Tuesday from Manchester to Heathrow airport, where it is due at 7.10pm, five hours before the Trident's noisy engines become illegal.

To the millions of passengers and hundreds of pilots who have flown in the Trident, its departure will cause mixed feelings, but those living under its flight paths will not regret its passing.

At the turn of the year, the Trident's Rolls-Royce Spey engines will not conform with new Civil Aviation Authority regulations and the cost of making them quieter has become uneconomic.

While Tridents will continue to fly in China and Zaire - two of the customers for BA's younger aircraft - its departure from the skies over Britain will mark the end of an era.

Only the BAC 1-11 remains as evidence of the days when Britain maintained an airline industry without help from abroad. Today, it relies upon a

ments, which enabled landings when visibility was down to 50 yards. Smith's 10-year, £20 million research programme had put Britain five years ahead of world competition.

The Staines crash, the worst air disaster in Britain up to then, came after a 10-year period when the Trident had built up an impressive safety record. Mr Michael Heseltine, then Minister for Aerospace, ordered a public inquiry, which found that Trident Papa India's leading edge droop flaps had been withdrawn too soon after take-off.

Then, on September 10, 1976, in clear skies over Zagreb in northern Yugoslavia, a BA Trident and a Yugoslav DC9 collided, killing all 176 passengers and crew. It was the world's worst mid-air disaster.

Although the Trident was subsequently overshadowed by the success of the Boeing 727, a similar three-engine aircraft the de Havilland once alleged was a direct copy, it has remained a favourite among pilots.

Mr Geoff Brousson, a pilot writing in the *Journal of the British Airline Pilots Association*, added: "It was probably more of a pilot's aeroplane than a passenger's and was built in the best traditions of solid English construction."

Tridents have flown about 500 million miles and spent 1,595,000 hours in service.

European firms increase work offer to Westland

By Rodney Cowton

The European consortium yesterday improved its offer of assistance to Westland, the British helicopter manufacturer, with a firm guarantee to provide 1.5 million man-hours of subcontracted work over a three-year period from 1987.

That improvement was contained in a letter delivered to the offices of Westland and its financial advisers, Lazard Brothers, the merchant bank. It was made in response to criticisms by Westland's directors that the European consortium's previous offer of subcontracted work was less firm than the one million man-hours over three years guaranteed in the rival offer made by the American and Italian companies, Sikorsky and Fiat.

The letter was sent by Mr David Horne, of Lloyds Merchant Bank, acting on behalf of the European partners: GEC, British Aerospace, Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blom, Aerospatiale and Augusta.

He said that the offer was conditional only on agreement on price and delivery, but not on any market factors such as sales of helicopters. That guaranteed element is part of the larger total of 3.3 million man-hours over five years which the Europeans had already offered.

The letter pointed out that, in addition to the 1.5 million man-hours, the Europeans offer would provide a further 300,000 direct hours as a result of the fact that the British Ministry of Defence would be able to order an additional six Sea King helicopters because of the savings it would make through participating in other collaborative European helicopter programmes.

Mr Horne said last night that the European guarantee of work was better than that of Sikorsky and Fiat not only because it was larger, but because it was not dependent on American Government approvals.

The Ministry of Defence said yesterday that all helicopters would be back in service early next month. Only routine flying had been curtailed, and operational flying in Northern Ireland and the Falkland Islands had not been affected.

The Ministry said that all 30 of the RAF's Gazelles were affected and about three-quarters of those in service with the Royal Navy and Army.

The defect is understood to

Helicopters grounded

Nearly 200 of the 250 Gazelle helicopters in service with the Armed Forces have had to be grounded for examination after a crack was found in a weld in a rotor drive shaft.

The defect is understood to

have been found on December 6. The Ministry of Defence said yesterday that all helicopters would be back in service early next month. Only routine flying had been curtailed, and operational flying in Northern Ireland and the Falkland Islands had not been affected.

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Police wait at bedside of shot siege man

By Richard Dowden

Police were last night waiting to interview Mr Errol Walker - the man who held a girl aged four hostage over Christmas - as he recovered in a London hospital from an operation to remove a bullet from his head.

A spokesman at the Hospital for Nervous Diseases in Holborn said that the condition of Mr Walker, was "satisfactory and improving steadily."

Mr Walker, aged 29, was shot by police when they stormed a flat in Poynter Court, Northolt, west London, on Boxing Day where he had held Carlene Roberts hostage for nearly 30 hours. The siege began when Carlene's mother, Miss Jackie Chares, staggered fatally stabbed from the flat on Christmas morning.

Yesterday Carlene was said to be doing well at the Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood. She had been given stitches for a knife wound in her neck, suffered at the beginning of the siege, and for lacerations to her right arm, sustained as the siege ended. Her father was reported to be with her.

Police have defended their handling of the siege and the use of stun grenades in the storming. It is believed to be the first time they have been used by the police in mainland Britain. They were used by the Special Air Service during the storming of the Iranian Embassy in 1980.

A former police and army firearms instructor accused the police of waiting too long before entering the flat. Mr Peter Elliott, now managing director of Delta Firearms of Colchester, Essex, said that the stun grenades should have been thrown together and the doors and windows smashed immediately.

"A stun grenade is effective for just three seconds, you have got to move in that space of time before the subject recovers," Mr Elliott said. "... it was at least seven seconds before they responded."

"I have been in a room when a stun grenade goes off and believe me, you don't know where you are, you think you are on another planet."

Mr Elliott also said the police were wearing the wrong sort of clothing and that the D11, Firearms Unit, was not trained to storm a house but to act as snipers. A spokesman for Scotland Yard denied this and said the unit was trained for this sort of crisis and that the role as snipers was secondary.

Mr Elliott said the local Conservative MP, said he had nothing but praise for the police.

The objective was to save the life of the little girl, he said.

Mr Clive Soley, Labour spokesman on home affairs, said that the use of stun grenades with a child present was worrying.

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Bad weather fails to deter sales shoppers as thousands join the queues

By Derek Harris

Winter clothing and footwear, the one range of items which did not sell heavily before Christmas because of the mild weather, were being scooped up by bargain hunters as the sales signs brought out shoppers in force again yesterday.

With most shops reporting pre-Christmas sales up by between 10 and 15 per cent on last year, shoppers are back some queuing overnight or longer, lured not only by special bargains but by wide-ranging reductions of up to half.

In Oxford Street, London most stores launched their sales yesterday. At Selfridges there was a queue of several thousand people, the longest seen by Mr Roy Stephens, the store's managing director, since he went to Selfridges in 1979.

Mr Kevin Mellish queued outside the store for 18 days to buy a television set, video recorder and video camera but when Selfridges discovered he planned to give them to the Rainier Foundation, a charity which helps young people in trouble, Mr Mellish got them for half price. The reduction would otherwise have been just

over £200 on rather more than £2,000 worth of goods.

Mr Stephens said: "In sales we are two-thirds up on the same day last year. There are a lot of half-price bargains in men's wear, women's wear and particularly in fashion ranges. About half the sales being made are on credit cards."

Debenhams in Oxford Street opened at 8 am yesterday with a queue of about 500 braving the chill-wind. Mr David Elliott, the store director, said: "Fashion wear is selling extraordinarily well there are a lot of items at half price. Men's wear is also in heavy demand."

Half-price Christmas cards and wrappings were also being snapped up, and china was popular, with a proportion of seconds bringing prices down to about half those usually charged for perfect goods.

Mr Elliott added: "We should be looking, judging from these heavy crowds, at something like a 20 to 25 per cent increase in turnover terms."

In the West Country the floods of the past few days were shrugged off by shoppers. At the Debenhams store in Bristol there was a queue of 300 and

with the sharp drop in temperatures overnight a big clearance of winter clothing was expected.

Seasonal sales started early in the North where the North-east Co-operative Society has about 40 department stores from Berwick-upon-Tweed to north Yorkshire. At the start of the sales on Friday last week turnover jumped between 10 and 15 per cent compared with the same period last year.

The after-effects of the miners' strike, which bedevilled retailers there at Christmas last year, appear finally to have been left behind. Domestic electrical appliances are selling again and so are cars, according to the society.

Victoria Wine, one of the largest off-licence chains and part of Allied-Lyons, launched its biggest sale of drinks yesterday, pre-Christmas sales appear to have been up in volume by about 10 per cent.

More stocking up for the New Year celebrations is expected, and there are reductions on about 30 wine lines. The prices of spirits such as whiskies have been reduced by about £1 a bottle.



Customers clamouring for bargains at Liberty in Regent Street, London, yesterday, as sales began all over the country (Photograph: Chris Harris)

Wine sales are buoyant, cream-based liqueurs are still in increased demand and port has been making a comeback. Cigar sales are up more than 15 per cent at Victoria Wine but this could reflect to an extent special promotions by the chain.

In Belfast, video recorders, which plunged below freezing point early yesterday, were the most eagerly sought bargains when the new year sales began yesterday with a frantic spending spree. Outside one big electrical shop in south Belfast people had queued since Christmas

Eve in overnight temperatures which plunged below freezing point early yesterday. The management hired a leading folk group to entertain the queue while a complimentary breakfast was served before the doors opened at 9.30 am. Mr Bobby Walsh, aged 18,

who is unemployed, was at the head of the queue and bought a £349 video recorder for £9. A mother and daughter saved more than £500 on their joint purchases of a microwave oven, a conventional oven, a video recorder and a television set. Sales in progress, back page

Police had to handcuff 'Hurricane' Higgins

Alex "Hurricane" Higgins, the former world snooker champion, had to be handcuffed by police after a disturbance at his home in which he threw a television set out of a window, a court at Macclesfield, Cheshire, was told yesterday.

Higgins, aged 36, who was accused of behaving in a manner likely to cause a breach of the peace last September 29, was also "extremely abusive" to the police, although he denied he was drunk.

Higgins of Wilmslow Road, Mottram St Andrew, near Macclesfield, agreed to be bound over to keep the peace for 12 months in the sum of £200.

Miss Carole Mundy, for the prosecution, said that Higgins's wife Lynn made a 999 call because of a disturbance at her home. "It seems there had been a heated argument between the couple."

"It was to such an extent that Higgins apparently threw a television set from an upstairs window out on to the lawn. Three windows in the front door were broken and a window in the back door as well. Items in the house were smashed and clothing strewn about", she said.

Higgins was physically and verbally aggressive towards the police, who spent half an hour trying to calm him.

"The histrionics got to such a pitch that Higgins made towards a kitchen drawer saying: 'That's it. There is only one way for Alex Higgins to end it.'"

Mr Howard Bradshaw, for the defence, said: "I am asked to emphasize specifically that at no stage during the evening was Mr Higgins in any way intoxicated. And at no stage in the course of the arrest was he physically aggressive towards the arresting officers."

Higgins accepted the atmosphere at his home that evening was the complaint, Mr Bradshaw said.

Royal shoot prospects are bleak

The Duke of Edinburgh, who bagged 5,000 pheasants last year, faces the bleakest shooting season for years when he arrives at Sandringham today for a six-week holiday.

Shooting is to be restricted severely because of an acute shortage of pheasants. The wet spring killed off many chicks during the breeding season.

The Duke, who shoots with Prince Andrew and Prince Edward, is expected to limit sport to occasional days instead of the usual four days a week.

A Sandringham observer said: "He will probably shoot cock birds only. Shooting hens would just kill off stock. It looks pretty grim."

During the past 20 years the Royal Family has shot 150,000 pheasants at Sandringham. The Prince of Wales has turned his back on shooting since his marriage.

Thousands of people will greet the Queen, and other members of the Royal Family tomorrow when they attend morning service with estate workers in the parish church.

The Queen is to give a photo call and hopes that reporters will stay away afterwards from the 20,000-acre royal estate so that she can have a quiet holiday.

Extra police are being drafted in from all over Norfolk in a round-the-clock security guard on the 274-room Sandringham House.

Aerial survey cuts fuel bill

An aerial infra-red survey, costing £5,500, of Austin Rover's 375-acre plant at Longbridge, Birmingham, to reveal heat loss has saved the company millions of pounds.

Eighty per cent of the heat loss shown on the photographs has now been stemmed. The energy cost of producing each car is now less than £75, compared to £143 in 1980, and fuel bills have dropped from £44 million to £35 million, despite increased production.

Drugs firm sent for trial

The case of a drugs firm and its medical director accused of issuing a misleading advertisement is to be heard at the Central Criminal Court, magistrates at Uxbridge, west London, decided yesterday.

The summonses, relating to the arthritis drug surgam, have been brought against Roussel Laboratories, of Broadwater Park, Denham, Buckinghamshire and Dr Christopher Goss of Three Stacks, Spade Oak Reach, Bourne, End, Buckinghamshire.

Fare changes by Dan-Air

Dan-Air is increasing economy fares on internal flights by 5 per cent but introducing special offers for passengers who wait until the day before travelling to book Heathrow to Inverness on this basis will cost £48 one way and Gatwick to Belfast and to Aberdeen £45.

The cost of some low-cost advanced passenger excursion flights (Apex) on internal routes is being further reduced by up to £6 on return fares.

Murder charges

Lee John Rowlands, aged 26, of Skelmersdale, Lancashire, was remanded in custody for seven days by magistrates at Ormskirk yesterday when he was charged with the murders of Mrs Tina Rowlands, aged 26, his estranged wife, and Mr Robert Lee, aged 17, both of Skelmersdale.

Big rise forecast in drink-drive cases

By Robin Young

The police campaign against drink-driving over Christmas met with variable success around the country. The early indications were that there would be a greater number of prosecutions this year, though the proportion of positive breath tests may be down somewhat.

Some counties reported fewer positive breath tests this year than in last year's more restricted campaign.

In Sussex police announced yesterday that the number of motorists breath-tested since the launch of this month's campaign had passed the 2,300 mark, and had resulted in 514 arrests. A further 1,284 drivers were just below the legal limit.

A police spokesman said: "The total number of drivers stopped is almost four times as many as last year when many officers were on duty during the coal strike." The 16 arrests in Sussex on Christmas Eve was double last year's tally.

Mr Roger Birch, the chief constable, said that two-thirds of all drivers tested had been drinking. "Despite all warnings there is a hard core of drivers who still think they can drink and drive", he said.

Mr Birch, who is chairman of the traffic committee of the Association of Chief Police Officers, predicted that the number of drivers who were caught drinking and driving nationwide would show a marked increase.

In Avon and Somerset, 101 drivers were arrested under the drink-driving laws between December 15 and 23, compared with 114 in the same period last year, but yesterday police in the county had still to complete their statistics for the actual Christmas period.

In neighbouring Gloucestershire, 82 drivers faced prosecution after failing or refusing breath tests in the week up to the morning of Christmas Eve, but only three more cases were found over the three-day Christmas period.

In Norfolk there were only five positive breath tests on Christmas Eve, and just one more on Christmas Day. In South Wales there were 77 positive tests in the 10-day pre-Christmas period, compared with 90 in 1984.

Nottinghamshire police, reputedly the most energetic in pursuit of those who drink and drive, tested 2,573 motorists in the first seven days of the holiday period. Only 80 tests proved positive, little more than three per cent.

In the Thames Valley police area in the week to Boxing Day, of 635 motorists breathalyzed, 141 were found unfit through drink, compared with 100 positive results out of 504 tests in the same period last year.

A police spokesman described the increased number of positive results from a smaller number of tests as "worrying". In Derbyshire, where 31 holiday drivers failed the breath test, Superintendent John Austin, head of the road traffic sub-division, said: "People who are still drink-driving in spite of all the warnings are criminals and there should be no sympathy for them. It seems the only way to stop them is to give them prison sentences."

Wiltshire had breath-tested 233 drink drivers from December 15 to Christmas Day, and found 62 positive, four times the proportion for the rest of the year and well up on last Christmas.

Lincolnshire announced a 50 per cent increase in the number of drivers failing the breath test over the holiday period, 40 compared with 26 last year. But in Staffordshire positive tests were down by almost half, from 43 to 24.

Only one of Scotland's regions had prepared statistics. Strathclyde reported 59 positive breath tests and four refusals, compared with 51 positive breath tests and seven refusals, last year.

In Wales, Dyfed-Powys reported 33 positive breath tests in the run-up to Christmas, compared to 25 in the same period last year.

In Northern Ireland, an RUC spokesman said that the police were "reasonably satisfied" with road accident figures over the holiday period. Two people were killed and 55 injured in 41 accidents, compared with one killed and 52 hurt in 39 accidents last year.

Hampshire police had 67 positive breath tests between December 16 and 23, compared with 55 last year.

Instant fine plan for TV fee dodgers

By David Hewson

The Home Office is considering introducing on-the-spot fines for television licence dodgers to end evasion which costs the Treasury between £80 million and £85 million a year. Government officials are increasingly worried by the scale of the evasion, now thought to involve 1.6 million people or 8 per cent of households which own a television set.

The losses are not felt directly by the BBC, which is guaranteed its licence fee income from the Consolidated Fund, and is made up by the Treasury, but the corporation believes it might receive a higher licence fee settlement if licence-dodging were reduced.

The Public Accounts Committee is understood to be dismayed by the level of fines imposed on licence dodgers, which often do not match the £58 licence fee because courts take into account an offender's ability to pay. The maximum fine is £400. The Home Office is researching the viability of a fixed fine system which would empower Post Office detector vans officials to issue fixed-penalty fines to anyone caught without a licence. They would be given a short time to pay and there would be an appeal to a magistrate.

An early decision on changes to the system seems unlikely, and the Home Office remains unconvinced that a fixed-penalty will regain more money from the licence-dodging public than it will cost to operate.

Slow start for data register

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

Only 3,000 computer systems have been entered on the Data Protection Register - one per cent of the systems which must be registered before the deadline in May.

Mr Eric Howe, the registrar, has been trying to impress on companies that they will be breaking the law if they fail to register. By next June the section of the Act concerning individual rights will take effect. Then, people will have the right to examine and correct information concerning them.

The registrar, based in Wilmslow, Cheshire, has been mainly encouraging businesses to register their systems. A number of reports this year, including one from the National Computing Centre, indicated that many computer owners who held personal information on their files believed wrongly that they were exempt from registering.

The centre based its conclusions on inquiries it had received from companies. The Act covers data from which a person can be identified through details including address, job and physical characteristics.

The registrar has distributed about 400,000 copies of guidelines on the Act.

Mr Thomas had died from a shotgun wound to the abdomen and his sister had been shot in the head. The intruder or intruders had then set light to the house with paraffin. No weapons had been found.

Mr Thomas, who farmed 300 acres at Scoventon Park and who owned four other farms, was last seen at 12.15 pm on Sunday, and his sister at 3.30 pm that day.

Mr Davies said police wanted to interview the driver of a dark blue MK IV Ford Cortina seen in a lay-by near the farm at 10.30 pm on Sunday.

They also hoped to interview a man, aged between 18 and 22, seen at 9 pm that evening, leading a rough-coated dog.

Det. Chief Supt. David Davies, head of Dyfed Powys CID, said police were searching for one or more people. It had been a "vicious attack".

The bodies were found in the charred ruins of their isolated mansion near Steynton, Milford Haven, Dyfed.

Police said that the house had been set on fire with paraffin after the shootings. The bodies were recovered on Monday but it was not until yesterday that police were certain a third person was involved.

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Thousands of visitors are expected at the remote Australian town of Coonabarabran, where Japanese astronomers have built an observation centre with three telescopes and computer equipment.

Weeks of cloudy skies have turned the comet's visit to the skies of western Europe into a considerable non-event, and those who have seen it have been disappointed that it is not much bigger.

Astronomers say that this is an unfavourable visit which compares poorly with the sightings of 1910, when the comet was much closer and when, unlike this time, it did not disappear behind the sun.

But with a change in the weather over much of Britain during the last 48 hours, and the return of clear, cold skies, there is a sporting chance of a sighting between now and January 14, when it will have all but disappeared to New Zealand. It is to be found at an altitude of about 18 degrees in the south-western sky, slightly below and to the right of the great square of Pegasus.

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Search for killer of two in gutted house

More than 100 detectives were involved in a double murder hunt yesterday after the shooting of Mr Richard Thomas, aged 58, a farmer, and his sister, Helen, aged 55.

The bodies were found in the charred ruins of their isolated mansion near Steynton, Milford Haven, Dyfed.

Police said that the house had been set on fire with paraffin after the shootings. The bodies were recovered on Monday but it was not until yesterday that police were certain a third person was involved.

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ITV advertising set for £1,000m record

Advertising revenues of independent television companies are booming, dispelling fears earlier this year of a financial crisis that could threaten the regional nature of commercial television.

Most analysts now expect ITV to have taken more than £1,000 million in advertising during 1985, a new record made more remarkable by the industry's poor performance during the spring and summer. The key to the record is commercial television's strong sales during the autumn when the volume of advertising showed increases well above the rate of inflation.

Advertising agencies believe that ITV and Channel 4's takings will be more than £980 million, an increase of more than 7 per cent on last year, which, with TV-am's revenues, will take commercial television over £1,000 million for the first time.

Ironically, the record revenues came at a time when ITV has been losing viewers to the newly-strengthened schedules of the BBC, though it retains an overall audience lead.

The rise in advertising volumes above inflation will also strengthen the arguments of those who are trying to persuade the Peacock Committee to vote for commercials on the BBC. The corporation and the commercial companies claim that there is insufficient advertising to split between ITV and BBC.

But with a change in the weather over much of Britain during the last 48 hours, and the return of clear, cold skies, there is a sporting chance of a sighting between now and January 14, when it will have all but disappeared to New Zealand. It is to be found at an altitude of about 18 degrees in the south-western sky, slightly below and to the right of the great square of Pegasus.

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The airport bombings

Terror attacks tarnish PLO's image and Mid-East peace hopes

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

lenient view of PLO activities in the past.

Yesterday's attacks come as international pressure has been building on Mr Arafat to renounce terrorism and to recognize Israel's right to exist. King Hussein of Jordan is said to be insisting on this as a precondition for going on with his attempts to resolve the Palestinian problem.

The King flies to Damascus on Monday for his first visit there after a decade of bad relations between the two Arab countries. The Arafat faction of the PLO is totally rejected by Damascus and the improvement in relations between Jordan and Syria in recent months is a further sign of the King's growing impatience with Mr Arafat's refusal to make the necessary pledges.

President Mubarak of Egypt has, in effect, given the PLO leader a two-month deadline to make up his mind. He said in an interview earlier this week that the King would go ahead without the PLO at the end of that time if the necessary commitment was not forthcoming.

The moderate Arab countries are aware that Israel is more disposed to negotiate with Mr Shimon Peres as Prime Minister than it will be from next October, when Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud leader, is due to take over the post.

Egypt in recent days has been making an increased effort to settle its many differences with Israel. The King is also reported to be maintaining secret contacts with Mr Peres.

So far the stumbling block to any real progress on the Palestinian problem has been Jordan's need to involve the PLO. The gunmen at the airports could well have reduced that need.

A morning of horror in Vienna

Continued from page 1

through automatic doors into the airport car-park. Inspector Gottfried Mally on patrol near the eastern entrance of the car-park opened fire with a Browning automatic, injuring one of the terrorists.

As more and more units of "Cobra" arrived, the terrorists appeared to run out of ammunition and threatened the owner of a Mercedes with a knife. He managed to escape but the three drove off in his car.

During a car chase of 10 to 12 minutes, another grenade was hurled at the pursuing police vehicles. The police opened fire and shattered the rear windscreen of the Mercedes near the village of Fischamend, five miles east of the airport. A few minutes later the car was immobilised by police fire. One of the terrorists was unconscious and later died from his wounds. Another is severely injured and unconscious; the third gave himself up and is still under interrogation. According to a police spokesman, he is claiming Lebanese nationality.

The police have not disclosed his identity or nationality yet but a spokesman said that like the dead terrorist he was Middle-Eastern in appearance. Ambulances took the airport injured to various Vienna hospitals. The departure lounge, his Christmas trees gruesomely splattered with blood remained closed until midday while police began a thorough search of the building for possible accomplices. An unexploded grenade was defused by military experts.

At an airport press conference Dr Franz Kaser, spokesman for the police, said a number of his men had been injured during the exchange of fire. He denied the Vienna airport was less well guarded than others.

Schwechat airport usually is exceptionally well guarded with armed policemen from the elite "Cobra" force on duty at all entrances. But visitors to the airport earlier this week at the height of the Christmas festivities said there seemed to be fewer policemen than usual.

Outrages with the Abu Nidal stamp

The Palestinian Abu Nidal faction, which is regarded by Israeli intelligence sources as being most probably responsible for carrying out the attacks on Rome and Vienna airports, has built up a reputation for particularly ruthless acts since it split away from the mainstream al-Fatah movement late in 1979 (Ian Murray writes from Jerusalem).

It is headed by the former Fatah representative in Iraq, Tzabri al-Banna, and he is believed to have several hundred followers at the moment.

Originally his faction operated from Iraq under the protection of the Iraqi Government and it attracted supporters of the "Black June" movement who operated against Jordanian and Syrian targets at the end of 1976.

Abu Nidal is said to have been responsible for organizing attacks against the Semiramis and Inter-Continental hotels in Damascus and Amman and the Syrian embassies in Rome and Pakistan at the end of that year.

In November, 1983, however, Iraq expelled the organization and closed down its offices except for one in Baghdad. Most of the organization's installations today are in Syria and Lebanon, with a small infrastructure in Libya.

Among its main attacks since then, several have been directed against airline offices in Europe. They include:

November 25, 1985: Hi-jacking of Egypt Air airliner from Athens to Malta; September 30, 1985: Bomb at El Al offices in Amsterdam; August 24, 1985: Jordanian diplomat murdered in Ankara; August 1, 1985: Bomb attack on Madrid office of British Airways and TWA and shooting at the Jordanian Airlines Alfa office; April 4, 1985: Two bazookas fired at Alfa airliner at Athens airport; April 3, 1985: Missile fired at Jordanian Embassy in Rome; March 21, 1985: Grenades thrown at Jordanian Airline offices in Cyprus, Greece and Italy injuring a total of five people; March 9, 1985: Attempt to blow up Jordanian jet en route from Karachi to Amman; October 9, 1982: Jews in Rome's central synagogue attacked with grenades and small arms, killing one baby and injuring 34 others; June 3, 1982: Mr Shlomo Argov, the Israeli Ambassador in London, seriously wounded by three Abu Nidal terrorists, since sentenced to 30 years imprisonment; August 29, 1981: Two Jews killed and 19 others wounded in an attack on Vienna synagogue; May 1, 1981: Herr Heinz Neitel, president of Israel-Austria Friendship League, murdered in Vienna; February 18, 1978: Mr Yusef el-Sebai, editor of *al-Ahram* murdered.

Bar bloodbath at Rome

Continued from page 1

People, nevertheless, seemed remarkably buoyant and patient despite the various shocks. Signor Oscar Scalfaro, the Minister of the Interior, visited the scene and prepared to answer questions in Parliament today.

Natasha Simpson, the 11-year-old daughter of Mr Victor Simpson, aged 43, correspondent with the Associated Press, was killed in the terrorist attack. He and his whole family were about to depart for home leave in the United States. His son Mike, who was injured in the stomach, was said to be doing well in the same hospital to which his father was taken for an operation on his right hand.

Mr Simpson's wife, Daniela, who works for *Time* magazine, escaped unhurt because she had left the airport terminal just before the attack to give their dog a final walk before take-off.

Flights off

Athens (AP) - More than 1,600 Greeks working for 42 foreign airlines started a four-day strike over pay, grounding flights out of Athens airport. Olympic, the national carrier, is not affected.



A terror suspect is hit by a policeman at Leonardo da Vinci airport, Rome, scene of one of the attacks.

Warning to Syrians on missiles

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

New batteries of mobile short-range and medium-range anti-aircraft missiles have been deployed by Syria in eastern Lebanon, according to Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister.

His government is publicly urging restraint, but it is facing growing pressure from the armed forces to make Damascus remove the missiles.

The Israeli Defence Minister, Mr Yitzhak Rabin, yesterday warned Syria that Israel would respond when it was ready "whatever the cost", over the redeployed missiles.

Mr Rabin said the Israeli Army would intervene in a way and at a time it will judge right, in the most unexpected fashion, and not according to rules set by Syria, whatever the cost.

The Army had "adequate means to overcome obstacles set up by Damascus", he said.

Syria began its latest missile build-up on November 24, five days after Israel shot down two Syrian MiG 23 aircraft which were said to have come too close to Israeli fighters carrying out a regular reconnaissance over Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

Short-range Sam 6 mobile missiles were then moved into the Bekaa and along the main road from Beirut to Damascus, while larger Sam 2 missiles were moved close to the Lebanon border with Syria. Israel protested immediately that this was a move to limit the surveillance flights it considers necessary to monitor Palestinian groups inside Lebanon. It has in the past two months twice attacked such groups.

After pressure from the United States, Syria withdrew the Sam 6 missiles. Now, however, it has moved them to three new sites in Lebanon together with Sam 8 missiles. From their present positions they can protect the big Sam 2 missiles in Syria.

Mali is accused of breaking ceasefire as war spreads

Abidjan (Reuters) - The war between Mali and Burkina Faso spread far from the border zone yesterday as the conflict entered its third day.

A growing number of countries tried to end the fighting. Burkina Faso accused Mali of breaking a ceasefire and Mali said it had killed 35 Burkinabe soldiers since the war began on Christmas Day.

Mali said in an official communiqué that only three of its people had been killed, including a mother and child who died during a Burkinabe air raid on Sikasso, a town in southern Mali, at least 300 miles south-west of the disputed border area.

According to the International Institute for Strategic Studies, Burkina Faso has no combat aircraft, but the Malian communiqué appeared to confirm an earlier Burkinabe claim that it had attacked Sikasso from the air.

Burkina Faso said it attacked Sikasso in retaliation for Malian air raids on Ouahigouya and Djibo on Christmas Day.

The raid on Sikasso had caused enormous damage and ground troops had killed 15 Malian soldiers and destroyed two military targets in an attack on Zegoua, to the south-west, Burkina Faso claimed.

It said yesterday that Mali had broken a ceasefire when it attacked the town of Koloko overnight. Koloko is just across the border from Sikasso on the road to Bobo Dioulasso.

The Burkinabe gave no figures for casualties in the attack, which the ruling National Revolutionary Council said was made barely an hour after a ceasefire was due to come into force at midnight on Thursday.

The agreement to stop hostilities was announced by the Libyan Foreign Minister, Mr Ali Treiki, in the Burkinabe capital Ouagadougou after he had met the country's radical leader, Captain Thomas Sankara.

But Mali did not confirm the agreement, and Bamako radio said Mr Ali Treiki was due in Mali yesterday.

The Libyan minister and officials from Algeria, Ghana, Niger, Togo and a regional defence pact have shuffled between the two capitals in an effort to end the war over the long-standing dispute.

Nigerian foreign ministry sources said that the Foreign Minister, Professor Bolaji Akiyemi, was to join the growing number of mediators yesterday.

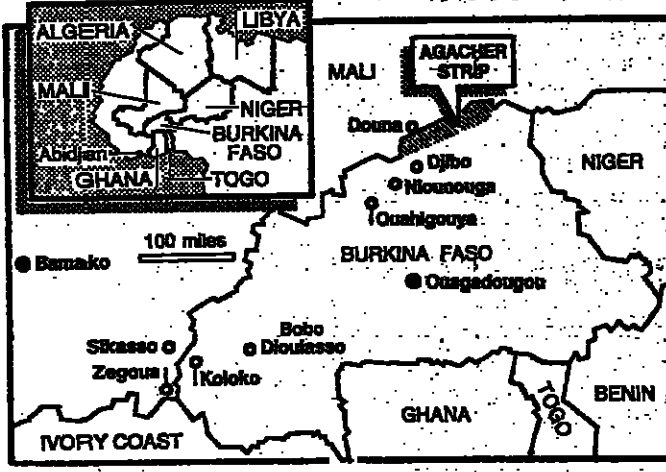
Mali and Burkina Faso fought another war over the disputed area in 1974 and have contested ownership of the 100 mile stretch of barren, earth known as Agacher since independence 25 years ago. The area is believed to be rich in manganese, titanium, uranium and natural gas.

The two former French colonies are among the world's poorest nations. Both are landlocked and their populations eke out a living through subsistence farming.

The dispute flared after Burkinabe census takers, supported by troops, went into four Malian border villages to count their nationals. Mali struck on Christmas Day, saying that Burkina Faso had ignored an ultimatum to pull out.

| FORCES COMPARED | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Troops | Mali 4,600 Burkina Faso 3,800 |
| Tank battalions | 1 3 |
| Infantry battalions | 1 1 |
| Paratrooper battalions | 1 1 |
| Ferries | 21 Soviet T34 12 Soviet T34 |
| Armoured fighting vehicles | 20 50 |
| Armoured personnel carriers | 50 13 |
| Artillery | 20 guns 30 heavy machine-guns |
| Air defence | 12 guns 6 SA-2 5 MIG-17 |
| Surface-to-air missiles | 6 SA-2 5 MIG-17 |
| Combat aircraft | None |

Source: International Institute for Strategic Studies.



Guards held over theft of museum treasures

Mexico City (AP) - Police are involved in a nationwide manhunt for thieves who plundered the main archaeological museum of 144 of its most valuable gold and jade treasures. Police said that the Christmas Eve robbery might have had inside help.

Eight guards on duty at the National Museum of Anthropology and History are in police custody and are being questioned about the loss of the Maya and Aztec artifacts, many of them priceless.

The thieves "knew perfectly well how the place functioned," said Colonel Rafael Rocha Cordero, of the Federal Judiciary Police. "They had enough time to go through half the museum, which places suspicion on the guards, who were obliged to do the rounds every two hours."

Saudis to hire Dhaka troops

Dhaka - Saudi Arabia is expected to recruit about 10,000 Bangladeshi soldiers and 100 officers for its national army. Official sources here say that they will be recruited on a contract basis.

Accord has been reached between the two countries' defence officials during a four-day visit to Bangladesh by the Saudi deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister, Prince Sultan Abdul Aziz.

Tribal toll

Port Moresby (AP) - Ten men have died in battles between up to 10,000 tribal warriors using axes, clubs and bows and arrows in remote villages in the Papua New Guinea Highlands.

Rightists to die

Ankara (AP) - A military court sentenced to death seven members of the former neo-fascist National Movement of Colonel Alparslan Turkes for terrorist activities in the Bursa region before the 1980 military takeover in Turkey.

Tokyo dole

Tokyo (AP) - Japan's unemployment rate rose to 2.9 per cent in November, the highest since records were started in January 1953.

Trains collide

Buenos Aires (AP) - A holiday passenger train hit a freight train, killing at least seven people and injuring 23 near Gualeguaychu, 75 miles north of the Argentine capital.

Rally round-up

Cairo (Reuters) - Police arrested more than 100 people planning a rally in support of Sulaiman Khater, a policeman accused of killing seven Israeli tourists in Sinai. A military tribunal is expected to issue its verdict today.

Road victim

Ankara (Reuters) - Mr Raif Denktas, aged 34, son of the President of the self-proclaimed "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus", died here after a road accident in Cyprus.

Arab's volley

Seoul (AFP) - Middle East countries including Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have objected to the use of Korean-made volleyballs for next year's Asian Games here. They want balls made in Japan instead.

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| Long Sheepskin Jacket | Full Price | £495.00 |
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| Blue Fox Jacket (Full skin-supply only) | Full Price | £495 |
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Racial tension in France

Two Moroccans shot dead at party

From Susan MacDonald Paris

Charles Mandon, in the flat above, is understood to have at first sent his son, aged 17, to complain about the noise. Versions differ as to whether the son was armed.

M Mandon then went down and fired through the closed front door and continued when it was opened. Ali Achamou, aged 31, and Ali Ben Yakoub, aged 48, both married with children, were killed. One of the injured was in a coma and another had his hand amputated yesterday.

After the shooting a spontaneous demonstration, involving about 100 people, was held outside the block of flats. A further demonstration, this time organized by the popular anti-racist organization SOS-Racisme took place yesterday morning when a delegation was received at the town hall. Both M Mandon, aged 39, and his son have been taken into custody.

Le Puy has a population of about 35,000 of whom about 1,500 are of Arab origin. SOS-Racisme defined the shooting as an essentially racist crime. "It is becoming more and more frequent that French people resort to killings and violence against people of North African origin, although one does not hear of it happening the other way around", a spokesman said.

Greek editors on treason charge over spy leaks

From Mario Mediano, Athens

The Athens Director of Public Prosecutions yesterday pressed treason charges against the publisher and three editors of the pro-government newspaper *eleftherotipia* for publishing secret state documents containing revelations by a Russian defector on Soviet spying in Greece.

The prosecutor banned publication of all news relating to this case, centred on disclosures made by Mr Sergei Bokhan, the Soviet military intelligence agent who served as a diplomat in Athens until his defection to the United States last May.

After Mr Bokhan's disclosures a Navy lieutenant and two civilian electronics experts were arrested on charges of selling defence secrets to the Soviet Union. One of the civilians was released on bail last Tuesday.

Eleftherotipia published two reports last Sunday signed by General George Politis, chief of the Greek central intelligence service, who questioned Mr Bokhan in the US earlier this month. One of the texts claimed that the Russians were coaching the Greek naval officer as a mole for use in case of war.

Mr Andreas Papandreu, the prime minister, however, during a recent parliamentary debate dismissed Mr Bokhan's revelations as "laughable", saying they had implicated five Greeks in minor offences. The names of two of the five have not been disclosed.

Gorbachov's new year message presses for test ban

From Christopher Walker Moscow

In a special new year message yesterday, Mr Mikhail Gorbachov called for 1986 to be a year of reduced nuclear explosions and progress towards the solution of a number of world problems, including Afghanistan and the Middle East.

The seasonal message which looked back to the Geneva summit and towards next year's summit with President Reagan in Washington, was delivered in the Great Hall of the Kremlin to the heads of all diplomatic missions in Moscow.

Western envoys saw the speech, the first such message by a Soviet leader in many years, as a further appeal to the United States to join the ban on nuclear tests before it expires next week. Moscow claims that more than 6.5 million of its citizens have now signed a petition to this effect.

"Let us act so that the year of 1986 should go down in history as that of a decline in nuclear explosions, as the year when people have mustered up enough common sense to rise above narrow, selfish motives and stop disfiguring their planet."

Mr Gorbachov and his senior advisers are thought to have been heartened by the support which Moscow's test ban call has received from a number of Western politicians. The Kremlin is thought to regard it as one of its strongest cards.

In yesterday's message, Mr Gorbachov struck a cautiously optimistic note and re-stated his offer to allow inspection of military test sites.

He said: "Since references are often made to the so-called verification problem as the main pretext for evading a resolution of that issue, I will stress once again that this problem will not be a stumbling block as far as the Soviet Union is prepared to take most resolute steps, down to on-site inspection as regards control over the ending of nuclear testing."

Mr Gorbachov said in his speech that as a result of the Geneva summit, there had been a certain warming up in the international climate. Looking forward to next year's meeting, he spoke of "a gleam of hope for headway to mutually acceptable solutions".

Turning aside from the dominant nuclear theme, he then added: "There is another major and acute problem: The Soviet Union is firmly set on seeing essential progress in 1986 in the cause of a political settlement in the Middle East, Central America, around Afghanistan, in Southern Africa and in the Gulf area."

"We are prepared to search for just solutions jointly with other countries, participate, where necessary in respective guarantees."

His remarks led to speculation among Western observers that guarantees for the solution of regional conflicts may feature more fully in next year's summit. It came on the sixth anniversary of Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, although Mr Gorbachov made no direct reference to the anniversary.

Mr Gorbachov's lengthy speech was noted for its moderation of tone and its repeated insistence that 1986 will be a decisive year in terms of global war and peace are concerned.

PORTING DIARY Simon Barnes

Cricket: from Bible to Bunyan

Shakespeare was by far the finest cricket writer of them all. When I solicited hidden references to cricket in the literature of the ages, the response was startling. So many great writers have touched on cricket - even the Bible is filled with allusions, right from the moment when the Great Umpire started play and "saw light, that it was good." But Shakespeare is tops.

Many readers offered me that reference to the days when close catchers were slimmer than Botham and Gatting: "I see you stand like greyhounds in the slips." (*Henry V*, II i). Even more offered me a biblical example of poor spelling: "And Peter went out with the eleven, and was bold," which they all claimed was *2:14*. It isn't, in fact, not in the Authorised or the Revised Standard, but has achieved extraordinarily wide currency.

There is, however, a genuine Shakespearean precedent for Peter May's speaking out against the reverse sweep: "This is the bloodiest shame, the wildest savagery, the vilest stroke." (*King John*, IV ii). And the bounce is obviously no modern thing, but was in use centuries ago: "You have broken his pate with your bowl." (*Cymbeline*, IV).

Nor is the turmoil that affects one of the northern counties a thing of recent years only: "Alas, poor York, I should lament thy miserable state." (*Henry VI* part 2, I iv). However, southern traditions of gentility have long given rise to hostility from outsiders - hence the reference to "the filth and scum of Kent." (*Henry VI* part 2, IV ii).

Midsummer Night's Dream contains a clear reference to the last Ashes series, a remark doubtless uttered by an Australian perplexed with the wiles of Edmonds and Emburey: "Hence, ye long-legged spinners, hence." Interesting too, to note that the googly was known in Roman times: "He put it by with the back of his hand, thus." (*Julius Caesar*, I ii).

Anthony and Cleopatra contains a nicely written - almost worthy of Cardus - description of Lillie appealing for leg before. "His legs bestride the ocean, his rear'd arm crested the world, his voice was propitiated as all the tuned spheres, and that to friends; but when he meant to quail and shake the orb, he was rattling thunder."

It is hardly surprising to find the rumoured excesses of the England team in the dressing room in New Zealand echoed in the Old Testament: "Ben-hadad was drinking himself drunk in the pavilion." (*1 Samuel* 2:9). Evidence, too, that all cricket is morally reprehensible: "He that touches the pitch shall be defiled by it." (*Ecclesiasticus* 13:1).

Weather played as big a part in cricket matches in biblical times as it does now: there is a reference in the Psalms to a couple of boundary fields exhorted each other to get back to the pavilion: "Deep called to deep at the noise of the water spouts." (*Psalms* 68:15). Yet as every cricketer knows, rain can be - a godsend: "Thou, O God, sendest a gracious rain." (*Psalms* 68:11).

Then there is a mysterious reference to the sacred symbol of Anglo-Australian conflict: "The priest shall put on his linen garment... and take up the ashes... and he shall put them between his altar. And he shall put off his garments, and put on other garments, and carry forth the ashes without the camp unto a clean place." (*Leviticus* 6: 10-11). The clean place the Lord's pavilion.

Dr Johnson was clearly a cricketer in both senses. "I never think I have hit it hard, unless it rebounds," Elizabeth Barrett Browning, surprisingly, had a penchant for treating her copies of *Idiot* in a rather playful spirit: "Do you see this square old yellow book? I toss it the air and catch again."

Bunyan knew a thing or two about cricket, and writes allegorically about the game: "Then said Evangelist, pointing with his finger over a very wide field, Do you see yonder wicket?... So I saw in my dream that the man began to run."

A number of writers show an uncanny knack of predicting recent events. Shakespeare has it in *Pericles* that "from ashes ancient Gower is come"; perhaps the man is older than he looks. In *Henry I* we have the undeniable, though unspectacularly expressed notion that "Gower is a good captain, and in good knowledge," while Chaucer writes: "O moral Gower! This book I direct at thee."

The moral problems of the game have fascinated writers for several millennia. Omar Khayyam, in *The Rubaiyat*, tells us:

"The ball no question makes of
eyes or nose,
But right or left as strikes, the
player goes;
And he that toss'd thee down into
the field,
He knows about it all - he knows,
he knows!"

I would like to thank every one who contributed to this marvellous mailbag full of great literature, and as promised, I will send fivers for every contribution here published. In the case of the many duplications, a single name has been drawn from the hat. I wish I had room - and fivers - to spare for the 200 or so other examples I was offered. These must be content with my thanks.

Bullies? Think again, Mr Levin

by Kenneth Newman

It was with great regret that I read Bernard Levin ("Who will defend us against the bullies in blue?") in *The Times* of December 17. Mr Levin is a distinguished journalist with a special reputation as a champion of individuals entrapped and abused by inhuman bureaucracies. He will be widely read, of course; readers will relish the well-turned phrase and recall the sardonic drift of his article long after the sparse detail has been forgotten.

He lays two accusations at my door. Firstly, that I have charge of a force generally consisting of racist bullies; secondly, that I am apathetic towards any such misconduct. As much as I enjoy his writing, he is, this time at least, long on rhetoric and short on fact.

Let me be plain. He is right in one significant matter: there are examples of officers' bullying, each of which is disturbing and some of which are plainly appalling.

Those acts are played out against a backdrop of a society which today seems to care less and snarl more than it did yesterday. Police officers are not from another planet. Although public expectation of them is properly high, officers cannot be faced daily with assault, cannot be constantly asked to pick up the pieces of a community's brutality to itself and cannot be called - by a GLC police committee lawyer, no less - "the salmonella poisoning in the sandwich" without in some instances taking on that same harsh mantle. None the less, I condemn utterly those officers who abuse their power, as all right-minded colleagues in every rank condemn them also.

The vast majority, I am thankful and proud to say, are thoroughly professional. Millions of trans-

actions are handled to satisfaction between the 27,000 officers and 16,000 civil staff of the Metropolitan Police, the 6.75 million Londoners and millions of other visitors who call upon our services.

Of all systems of complaint against public servants, it is difficult to recall one which has received more attention, publicity and statutory revision than that facilitating complaint against police officers. I welcome that.

Despite the zeal of organizations who use the system to campaign, rather than the honestly aggrieved citizen who seeks redress, levels of serious complaint have fallen over the past three years. Not only that: of the total number of recorded complaints in 1984 only 285 (4 per cent) were substantiated and of all complainants only 54 (1.4 per cent) wrote to express dissatisfaction with the outcome of the investigation.

The new Police Complaints Authority - a fully independent, non-police body under former ombudsman Sir Cecil Clothier - now monitors, reviews and directs investigations. It promises to be an even harder body for us to satisfy.

I will not claim that the complaint statistics cover every instance of public dissatisfaction with the Metropolitan Police, any more than I would claim that the abundant letters of thanks and praise we receive would encompass the totality of our support. Simply, I do not accept Mr Levin's extrapolation from particular misbehaviour to a general "rotteness". Nor, apparently, do the steady 68-74 per cent of respondents to opinion surveys since 1962 who have consistently recorded satisfaction with our services.

As well as choosing three cases in

which we are clearly vulnerable and using them to hypothesise about his "subterranean stream of poison", Mr Levin accuses me and my colleagues of apathy towards wrongdoing.

Not only have I publicly condemned malpractice but, more positively, I have asserted in both statement and action a constant drive towards greater professionalism. Our "Principles of Policing and Guidance for Professional Behaviour" (April 1983) unambiguously ties professionalism to the principles of human rights.

Although I do not doubt that prejudice - including racial prejudice - is present within many officers of the force, drawn as they are from a community itself much disposed to prejudice, I take some comfort from the fact that the independent Police Studies Institute Report (1983) (Volume IV page 109) gave officers credit for confining their attitudes to talk rather than action.

Our training in interpersonal skills, encouraging effective handling of human relations, has been described by independent researchers as comparing "very favourably indeed with training in other forces around the world. When planned improvements are fully operational, it could well be considered the best police training programme available in human awareness." (Bull and Horncastle, 1985).

Lord Scarman addressing the House of Lords indicated that the police service, probably more than any other agency, had risen to the demands of his Report's recommendations following the 1981 Brixton disorders.

Every police officer who appears charged before a court, often in the face of most stringent requirements from the Director of Public Prosecutions, is put there by us.

That task, as well as that of the formal disciplining of officers, is daily more difficult. Police officers whom we suspect of misconduct naturally take advantage of the human rights available to all citizens in requiring the judicial system to prove its case against them beyond reasonable doubt. That is a more demanding standard of proof to discharge than that of the civil case, such as the one cited by Mr Levin. Officers accused at disciplinary proceedings can now, and do, have skilled defending counsel. Last year we dismissed 26 officers, 21 in 1983 and 29 in 1982.

Exemplary fines, details of which we are prevented by regulation from making public, are imposed by senior police officers where cases are capable of proof. Fines, often of several hundred pounds, express professional condemnation where dismissal is inappropriate. More officers are reporting cases of unacceptable misconduct by colleagues. This harnesses the strongest of social pressures: that of the peer-group.

The peer-group will be helped in that process by a public and a press which not only firmly and constructively rejects poor behaviour but also supports and rewards the countless daily examples of officers' good conduct. Driving them into self-protective huddles, hung around with labels like "bullies in blue", will be a disservice to all citizens, police officers included.

Sir Kenneth Newman is Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

Ben Pimlott on how 1930s imagery hampers the left

LABOUR ISN'T WORKING.



The ghost of dole queue past - and present

film extras, even though the usual experience at employment offices is to sit and wait to be called, and queues are longer at the bank.

The fiction of a half a century ago supports a universal theme: the present depression is like, or somewhat like, or not yet as bad as, the last one. Since the Conservatives came to power, this theme has obvious attractions for the left, for whom in any case recollections of the devil's decade are not wholly bleak: there are folk memories of angry poetry, comradeship, clear objectives and heroic defeat. Nevertheless, the theme has been of greatest political value to the right.

This is partly because of the moral example. Contrary to legend, there were prosperous parts of Britain as well as impoverished ones. It was possible for enterprising members of the unemployed, like Tebbit *pere*, to find work if they showed determination - ergo, the same is true today. However, the right mainly benefits from the connection because of the contrast in material conditions. So distant from most contemporary experience is the traditional imagery of 1930s unemployment - dole queue, hunger march, pawnshop, soup kitchen, barefoot men, bread-and-marge, sullen school, balliffs, tuberculosis - that it provides a perfect camouflage. The syllogism runs as follows: really serious unemployment means terrible conditions; conditions are far from terrible; hence unemployment in its present form (except where race or religion complicates the picture) cannot be seen as really serious.

Thus, while the left uses the language of the Thirties to show how bad the depression has become, the right shows how bearable by comparison with the Thirties are present conditions, by using the same language. For both, as indeed for much neutral but concerned opinion in between, the pre-war period is the reference point. That, we all take for granted, was true employment.

A moment's reflection will show this assumption to be absurdly false. It is not a matter of conditions

getting better. It is a matter of social consequences that are fundamentally different. Much of the confusion lies in the word, now hazy in its meaning. The simple negative implies precision, yet precision is precisely lacking. Thus: is it necessary to be "genuinely seeking work" to be genuinely unemployed? What if you have genuinely and understandably given up?

Before the war it was like a bitter storm; today, like an arctic winter

Are housewives unemployed? Are the early retired, the disabled, the mentally ill, full-time mothers, would-be part-time mothers, students on vacation, vagrants, young people on training schemes, participants in the black economy? Is a writer unemployed who sometimes but seldom gets published, or an actor who sometimes but seldom gets parts? Can unemployment ever be voluntary? What of somebody who refuses (or accepts) worse-paid, less skilled work?

On few of these points is there agreement. It will be seen that, no less than with poverty, the use of the word unemployment is heavily laden with values, the balance of which varies according to the speaker. It should also be apparent that what was called unemployment before the war and what is called by the same name today are quite separate social phenomena.

Pre-war unemployment was a bitter storm: concentrated, intense, rising sharply to historic levels, but falling rapidly away, even before the Second World War brought it abruptly to an end. Modern unemployment by contrast is chronic. In the early 1980s, Michael Foot spoke of the new recession as an "economic blizzard". Arctic winter would have been more appropriate.

During the lifetime of those now leaving school, fluctuations in the total number out of work have been on an upward ratchet. Not for a generation has the level fallen in

Tory advertising in 1979: potent image which does not match reality

three successive years. Hence the steepest graph is that of the long-term unemployed, already almost double the figure for the late 1930s as a proportion of all those on the register, and bound to continue upwards even if total numbers remain static.

There is another aspect. Attention has rightly been paid to inner cities, where unemployment takes its toll in physical conflict, and where distress is evident. Handsworth and Tottenham, however, are by no means typical of British unemployment. Much of it is in the badly-hit areas - West Midlands, South Wales, Scotland, North West, North East - and is small-town, even semi-rural. Here especially, the conventional rhetoric which lays paralyzing stress on the supposed misery of unemployment, misconstrues the nature of the tragedy.

Whatever may have been true in the Thirties, many of the unemployed (it seems almost blasphemous to say it) are not particularly miserable. Go to some of the places where unemployment is highest, and you will find a better and more generous spirit than in the neighbouring dormitories of the South. It is down on your luck is not necessarily to be unhappy, and poverty is a great leveller.

Nor (to use a related rhetoric) does it necessarily lead to wanton violence. In Toxteth there is arson, on the Broadwater Farm Estate, murder. But in Shotton, County Durham - where male unemployment is more than once in three there is civil order, even a deceptive serenity. J. B. Priestley once called it the worst village in England: smoke and heat billowed from a coking plant at its very core. Today coke works and pits are closed, the centre has been bulldozed and tastefully landscaped, and a proud and active parish council has earned awards for the "most improved" village in the county.

In the Thirties, in places like Shotton, being out of work carried a stigma (the pit was closed for only one year). Today, the distinction between in work and out of work is blurred by low pay, part-time work, and evidently pointless MSC schemes. For the young, a zig-zagging from unemployment to youth opportunity programme to unemployment, at roughly the same remuneration, has become the normal pattern.

On the poorer council estates in Northern Ireland, the most splendid building is generally the army barracks or the Catholic church. In North East England it is the leisure centre, temple of the empty future. Populations live on memories of a harsh productive past. Once they had a purpose. Now workers and non-workers alike simply exist.

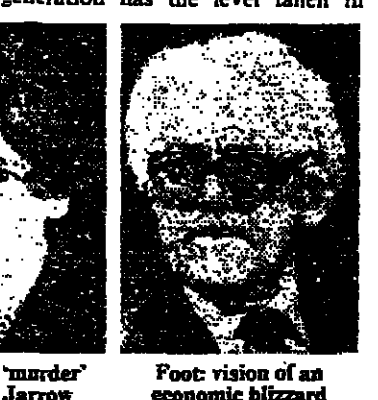
The language of unemployment (army, queue) is about separation, but away from the big cities the population is not divided. Instead redundancy (a new term) has come to define a society and a way of life.

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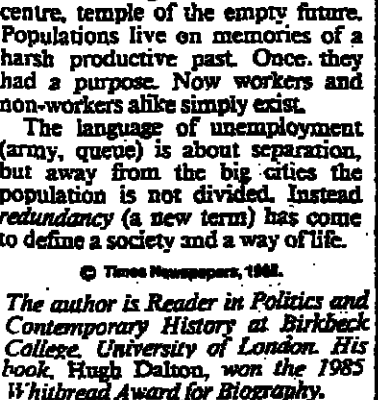
The author is Reader in Politics and Contemporary History at Birkbeck College, University of London. His book, *King Dole*, won the 1985 Whithread Award for Biography.



Greenwood: "Love on the Dole"



Wilkinson: "murder verdict on Jarro"



Foot: vision of an economic blizzard

Jack Straw

Why this good and bad is ugly

It was 3.20 pm on the Thursday before Christmas 1984 when I finally conceded that, in the battle for my son's soul, Mattel Inc had won.

Mattel is a toymaker, manufacturer of He-Man, Man-E-Faces, Ram Man, Skeletor, Tri-Klops, Trap Jaw, Mer-Man, Beast Man, Zedac and every other character in the Masters of the Universe. I hate the lot of them. Last year, these figures (priced around £3 each) had taken over half the ground floor of Hamley's in Regent Street, and the entire imagination of my son and his friends. This year, He-Man and his friends have been relegated to the basement (the ground floor being filled with soft and cuddly toys, including a large elephant, price £1.125); but they still grip my son, and his friends, I still hate them.

No doubt I should see a psychiatrist about my obsessive dislike of Masters of the Universe. After all, when I was a child, I devoured war comics, graduating from *Beano* and *Dandy* to the *Eagle*. (*Hotspur*, beloved of the *Economist*, was quite beyond me - all words and no pictures.) I asked our fantasist, a member of a playground gang and made forts in Epping Forest opposite my primary school. But, even allowing for my middle age, and the softening of my childhood recollections, there is something different about Masters of the Universe. The whole appalling series has but one characteristic - it glorifies gratuitous violence.

He-Man, and the rest of them, are plastic models, expensive and very well made (usually in Taiwan). They have been brilliantly marketed. Each comes with a comic in which the character just purchased features prominently. Their attraction to children aged five or so is reinforced by a television cartoon shown regularly throughout the year.

Mattel Inc is proud of its creation. He-Man won a top toy award in 1983. It says, in answer to this prissy protective parent, that all its toys are produced in line with "child guidance principles" (though it agrees that no psychological studies of the impact of the toys have been conducted).

The world of Masters of the Universe is divided into goodies and baddies. He-Man is a large muscular Aryan; his companion, Princess Rana, a white-skinned busty brunette. He-Man's arch opponent, Skeletor, is coloured blue, with a green-yellow face of a skeleton.

The story line in all the comics is simple. An associated goodie is put in mortal danger by Skeletor, Evil Lord of Destruction. Along comes He-Man, who, by the power of Graykull, becomes the most powerful man in the universe, and saves

the day. A typical page contains the following dialogue:

"KAZAM! 'You not taking ANY-ONE ANYWHERE'!"
"GROW-ROARRR!"
"FIGHT! FIGHT!"
"BATTLE CAT! Get the girl, I'll fend off these CREATURES!"
"SNARL GRRR!"
"DESTROY KILL!"
"TAKE the power of GRAY-SKULL!"
and on it goes.

Mattel justifies this nonsense by saying that the design is based on a "good versus evil" theme, and that the good guys always wins. In a literal sense, that is true, since the characters labelled "good" always do win, despite the fact that they have hacked to death a large number of baddies who, being baddies, have no feelings, no ideas, no status, and who self-evidently deserve to lose.

But what a perverted idea of morality it conveys. The message is simple: might is right: the strongest always win; and by chance, the strongest also happen to be the most beautiful, male and white. Good is only good because it is labelled good. This series is America at its most grotesque, most right-wing.

Of course, all children seek to identify with powerful, fantastic characters. It is one way they come to terms with the horrifying life-and-death power which the adult world exerts over them, with the all-pervading sense of dependence and fear which grown-ups can induce. This is one reason why fairy tales have been so timeless in their appeal; and why a writer like Roald Dahl so cleverly captures children's imaginations, with works like *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and *The Enormous Crocodile*.

There are three characteristics of fairy tales or good modern children's stories, however, which distinguish them from the unceasing brutality of the Masters of the Universe. The first is humour, or at least some expression of human frailty; the second is that the weak or the unattractive or the poor may prosper in the end; that native wit and brainpower, combined with goodness, can outsmart the evil of brute force. The third is wonder.

If you really read the fairy tales, you will observe that one idea runs from one end of them to the other - the idea that peace and happiness can only exist on some condition", wrote G. K. Chesterton. "This idea, which is the core of ethics, is the core of the nursery tale." There is nothing ethical about He-Man; just unadulterated violence. When television violence is cleared off the screen, then maybe these appalling toys had better be cleared away too.

The author is Labour MP for Blackburn.

Philip Howard

Dawson's spike: facts, please

It is a question that shook the world as well as Printing House Square, and to my knowledge did Dawson censor any despatch from Ebbutt or any other correspondent in Berlin. It would have been impossible for him to alter a message from Berlin - or anywhere else - without my being aware of it, for it would have been essential that any alteration be made should pass through my hands. I am absolutely certain about this. As I, like other members of the staff, did not like the appeasement policy at all, I have all the more reason for remembering this.

It is generally agreed now that the policy of appeasement, pursued by Neville Chamberlain and promoted in *The Times* by his chum, Geoffrey Dawson, was both mistaken and disastrous. If the democracies had stood up to Hitler earlier, it is possible that they could have stopped him without such seas of blood. The Guilty Men of appeasement, the Cliveden Set and the Old Gang at *The Times* carry a heavy responsibility in the long eye of history. But Dawson was an honourable man; so were they all, honourable men. Or were they?

Did Dawson suppress news from his foreign correspondents in Europe in case it annoyed Hitler? That is the accusation. If he did, it is the sin against the Holy Ghost of journalism. We know that whenever Hitler made another *démarche* or *putsch* into Tom Tiddler's ground, *The Times* wrote an appeasing leader; and that this helped to persuade him that whatever he did, Britain would never fight. Comment is free but facts are sacred: the trick is to separate them. If there is evidence that Dawson censored news stories that did not suit his party line on appeasement, that is part of history, and it should be put on the record while there is still time.

The latest evidence comes from Louis Herten in the *Hamstead and Highgate Express*, that admirable local paper. Big Louis writes that Norman Ebbutt, *The Times* correspondent in Berlin before the war, told him many years ago, when he was a broken man suffering from a stroke, that Dawson had suppressed or altered his dispatches.

I am afraid that as historical evidence this is not good enough. Herten is a grand old newshound and one of the great reporters of our generation. Ebbutt was a brave and truthful *Times* man. But complaints by journalists that their pieces have been cut are simply not evidence. They do it all the time. If the cut complained of in a single day in El Vito's were all true, you would have enough to stage another Battle of Elandune.

I call in evidence a letter dated April 29, 1978 from Geoffrey L. Peterson, chief foreign news editor of *The Times* for many years, including

the locust years of appeasement. "I am happy now to repeat that never, to my knowledge, did Dawson censor any despatch from Ebbutt or any other correspondent in Berlin. It would have been impossible for him to alter a message from Berlin - or anywhere else - without my being aware of it, for it would have been essential that any alteration be made should pass through my hands. I am absolutely certain about this. As I, like other members of the staff, did not like the appeasement policy at all, I have all the more reason for remembering this."

"I knew Norman Ebbutt quite well. He was an old colleague, and always came in to see me when he visited London; and he never complained that any messages of his had been censored. He did complain



Chris Wormell

about his despatches being cut, by us. But, yes, but censored, no. His messages were frequently too long; and when he became a correspondent he forgot all he had learned about space restrictions."

I suppose it is possible that the sub-editors, anticipating their Master's wishes, held out anti-fascist stories. But it is not like subs, especially when - at least half the office was bitterly opposed to appeasement. Such unprofessional journalism would have leaked out, even though there was no *Private Eye* yet. As a sufferer from cutting, who has become a part-time butcher on the composing room stone, I take any grumbles from a reviewer about being cut with a pinch of salt.

If some old *Times* man has evidence of news being suppressed or censored, let him speak now. It is no skin off my nose. I have no interest in defending Dawson; I just think it is historically interesting, and needs to be got right.



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CLOUDS OVER CHINA

This time last year, China's well-wishers were quietly confident. After nearly a century of turmoil, the country seemed at least to have settled down to becoming a modern state. Its economy had sprung to life, and its political leaders had one overriding priority: to raise living standards.

Now, such confidence looks, if not misplaced, then premature in the extreme. China goes into 1986 less assured and less united in purpose than it was only 12 months ago. Its reform programme which survived a difficult birth seven years ago is now once again at risk. Its open door on the world, flung wide last year, is swinging perilously.

China's problems are legion. Its economy, which was boosted in 1985 by the further relaxation of controls and easy foreign credit, is overheating. Inflation is running - according to official Chinese figures - at an annual rate of over eleven per cent. Many food prices have risen by fifty per cent or more. Capital investment has been over-stretched, and building projects all over the country are being halted for lack of funds. Imports of manufactured goods, bought largely on credit, have flooded into the country from Japan and Hong Kong, and China's foreign currency reserves have fallen at an alarming rate.

In the countryside, where eighty per cent of China's population still lives, the effects of decentralization and a limited market economy are working themselves out. Grain production fell slightly this year for the first time since the reform programme began in 1978. And peasants, who have been kept in the race for self-enrichment, are choosing to plant cash crops for profit rather than grain for the state. By now, productivity has increased about as far as it can without more advanced farming methods. But universal provision of modern machinery and chemical fertilizer is a distant prospect. The pace of rural reform has outstripped the pace of industrial development, and the two will be out of step for some time to come.

As the initial stimulus of the reforms has begun to wear off, so have many of the hopes they generated. What is left is resentment and deep social divisions. The impoverished peasants of the barren mountain interior now see less hope of catching up with the rich of the fertile southern valleys. The young unemployed, described euphemistically as "waiting for work", now see little prospect of matching the successful urban entrepreneur - not by legal means, anyway. And foreign visitors and their possessions inspire little but envy - envy which has erupted over the past year in occasional violence.

Everywhere, expectations

have been raised: for a car, for a television set, for a wristwatch. But those expectations have not and cannot be met - at least not yet, and not for every one of China's 1,000 million people. Some have turned to extra-legal means; others to outright corruption, and webs of vice have been unravelled which lead back to senior Communist Party men or military officers. The days when either group was a model of probity and honour are gone.

Developments such as these have left China's political leaders confused. They are less certain now than they were that raising living standards is by itself enough, or even that it is possible given China's poverty and diversity. Open divisions have emerged within the leadership between those who blame the reforms - decentralization, the free market and the open-door policy - for China's current difficulties, and those who blame the piecemeal way in which they have been introduced. There has been an uneven, and uneasy, retrenchment. The urban reform programme (which generated such confusion over the past year) has been slowed down. New restrictions have been imposed on foreign credit arrangements. Import quotas have been cut.

Deng Xiaoping, the architect and pioneer of the reform programme and a staunch believer in the possibility of raising living standards throughout China, has stood his ground. But even he has occasionally cast doubt on the permanence of his policies, causing a shudder to run through the country's Special Economic Zones and Hong Kong, not to speak of China's foreign trading partners. At the end of 1985, the balance of China's future is very delicately poised, and the risks of a complete about-turn must not be underestimated.

In some quarters, the slowing of the reform programme has been welcome. Many communists of the older generation would like it abandoned altogether; they regard its pursuit of material wealth as the source of corruption in China today. And many others would subscribe still to the twin values of asceticism and egalitarianism: the older generation who grew up amid the deprivation of the civil war; large sections of the military who have held fast to the old values and seen their political influence lost to the technocrats. There are also the have-nots of the new generation - the rural and urban poor, and the students, who have watched their living standards decline and their career prospects restricted.

Twenty years ago, it was the alliance of just these forces which unleashed the anarchy of the Cultural Revolution, and something similar could happen again this year - against foreign

sportsmen, against the Japanese, against poor living conditions - showed how close to the surface such passions run.

But there are good reasons why, with care, the events of twenty years ago should not repeat themselves. In the past decade, the face of China's countryside has changed beyond recognition. Once neglected landscapes are carefully planted and watered; new houses are being built. And even with this year's smaller harvest, China is still self-sufficient in grain - a major achievement for a country as undeveloped and populous as China. The cities are better supplied, and urban commerce is thriving; and while industrial development has fallen behind what was planned, an industrial infrastructure is taking shape. Too many people now have a stake in China's development to make a reversal of policies easy.

At the same time, China has avoided the major pitfalls of less advanced economies: it has not neglected agriculture for the sake of excessive industrialization, nor has it been relegated to a raw materials base for the developed world.

China also has certain historical advantages which help to underpin its modernization policies in a way that the extremes of Maoism were never underpinned. It had, before the communists came to power, a well developed network of commercial exchange between town and country based on its provincial centres, and a tradition of successful trading. How durable this tradition was has been illustrated by the speed with which it has revived in recent years.

The dogmas of Maoism, though not fifty years old, are already being subordinated gradually to the requirements of the mid-1980s. And China has another advantage, too. It has retained a sense of its own dignity - superiority even - which allows it to take its place on the international scene, unbehind to any and free of the dangerous paranoia that has so afflicted the foreign policy of the Soviet Union.

But the greatest deterrent to change in China's current policies is the experience of the cultural revolution itself, which is still within living memory. As that memory fades, however, the risk of a reversal will increase. Despite Deng Xiaoping's best efforts, the continuation of his policies is not yet guaranteed after his death. His opponents are ready and waiting to take over. Any deterioration in China's economic position will make their task easier. In the long term, the very long term, the omens for a prosperous, powerful and responsible China are favourable. But the greatest risk at the moment is that we treat China as a stable country. It is not.

MATCHES OF YESTERDAY

The soccer season opens next weekend for up to nine million people whose sporting life revolves round the bobbing jaw of Mr Jimmy Hill. Even those who do not watch it might welcome the return of Match of the Day and its ITV clone. For all their dog-eared clichés they share a spot in our national pop culture and, by their own professionalism, deserve it to remain.

Whether the same can be said for the material they present is another matter. The Football League reopened for business last August amid echoes of outrage from the Heyzel Stadium and the sobering consequences of the Bradford fire. Ostracized by the rest of Europe, English football was on trial. Can an interior judgement now be made?

Bradford and Bradford in their differing ways reflected two of the three most depressing characteristics of our national game. Bradford was a tragic reminder of the off-field violence which clubs for so long had done so little to curb. That Liverpool, our most famous club (and by no means the worst offender) should be indicted, served only to underline the threat to our international image. The consequent severity of the European ban on English clubs was right. The proposal for "friendly" games to fill the vacuum in the programmes of our senior clubs is wrong. There has been a decline in ground violence this season, which suggests that lessons are being learned. But to finish them now would be foolish.

If Brussels exemplified the viciousness on our footballing terraces, the fire at Bradford before it illuminated the crumbling nature of the terraces themselves. Manchester United could afford to spend £1 million on ground improvements at Old Trafford after a profit of £1.7 million last season. But even most large clubs offer a poor bargain for the money they charge their fans - hard wooden windproof seats for up to £5 or a vertical position behind goalposts, sometimes exposed to both the hooliganism and the rain. There is a kind of poetry in it - but not surprisingly in 1985-6 it lacks universal appeal.

The crisis at Swansea City epitomizes some of the lessons that have to be learnt. The four-year history of the club's decline from the heights of the First Division to the depths of the Third and bankruptcy, is one of poor husbandry and appalling financial control. Big sums were squandered on transfers and wages with no guarantees of return. In a sense the culling of the Swans should encourage the rationalization of a Football League which has long been in need of it.

The third great weakness of British football has been best reflected by declining attendances - even during a season which until now had had no counter-attractions on television. To divert the half-hearted. This is the continuing poor standards on the field of play, which years of successful participation in European competition has done little

to improve. "The British game" has become a cliché for a kind of football in which physical endeavour and commitment counts more highly than skill. What we have learnt from our years in Europe has been not how to encourage the individual's skills which flourish elsewhere, but how to cut out one's opponent's by setting into a kind of static defence. If football is to continue as a spectator sport it must offer spectators something worthwhile for them to watch.

There is too much football, and the quality of too much of it is too low. Clubs with long histories deserve more far-sighted management and direction than too often they receive. The package of measures agreed last week - and yet to be endorsed by all 92 clubs in the League - involve play-offs for promotion and relegation in some cases and, ultimately, a slightly smaller First Division. But these do not look like the root and branch reform for which the game cries out. The lower divisions should be restructured on a regional basis to cut costs. And the League as a whole should be reformed.

So far the League has done too little too late, in all respects. Bradford, Brussels, Swansea and the declining gates have been the result. Like too many of the clubs it contains it has always tried to settle for a nil-nil draw. But unless it shows more verve and imagination than it has so far there will be no Match of the Day worth watching and even the armchair fans will move away.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bar to schizophrenia research

From Dr Gordon Claridge

Sir, As someone whose research on schizophrenia is rapidly sinking due to total absence of funding, I would like to congratulate Marjorie Wallace on her excellent series of articles about this "forgotten illness" (December 16-18).

In fact, on the scientific side the situation is even worse than she suggests since, as I can relate to my cost, the disinterest in schizophrenia to which she refers even seems to extend to those who are the council responsible for allocating the scarce resources that are available.

As she rightly points out, one of the very few established facts about schizophrenia is that the predisposition to develop the illness is partly inherited, being accurately to identify individuals at risk would therefore be a major step forward. Yet my own experience is that attempts to get even modest support for a project along such lines can fall on minds at the research councils which are, at worst, uninformed, at best erratic in their judgement, about the currently significant trends in the world schizophrenia literature.

Thus, of two successive, virtually identical applications which I recently presented to the Medical Research Council, one was judged worthy of support but turned down because of lack of funds, the other rejected outright, having been rated as below the bottom of the referees' scale of scientific merit.

The point of that story is not to give vent to a personal paranoia (I know several of my colleagues could tell of similar experiences) but to raise a wider issue about support for research on schizophrenia in this country.

Among those of us working in the field who are, like myself, *psychologists* (even biological, and therefore respectable) psychologists it is well known that it is correspondingly more difficult to obtain funds than is the case for psychiatrists or for those medical scientists working under the rubric of psychiatry.

Yet biological psychologists have said many thoughtful things about the probable nature of schizophrenia, about what kind of disorder it might be, and especially about the crucial question, referred to earlier, of what might be at risk for the disease.

Unfortunately British psychiatry, which of course sets the direction of research on mental illness in this country, seems disinclined to encourage research that runs counter to its own conception of schizophrenia.

The fact is that *nobody* knows what schizophrenia is - except, perhaps, those who suffer with it. We surely owe it to them to investigate without prejudice, as many possibilities as we can.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON CLARIDGE,
Magdalen College,
Oxford,
December 20.

Violence on television

From Mr Hanif Kureishi

Sir, Whilst it is simple to deplore the easy violence of some American TV serials and films like *Rambo*, the recent fatuous and philistine attacks on the leading British film-maker, Derek Jarman, after his films were shown on TV, and the call by Mary Whitehouse and others for further censorship of sexual and violent material, seem to mask a deeper urge.

Since there is already adequate provision to prevent ordinary people being shocked by unusual or unlikely sex or violence, it is increasingly apparent that this renewed call for censorship is a figleaf concealing the desire to suppress what is morally or politically challenging. The extent to which the authoritarian suppression of dissent - be the dissenters trade

From Mr Paul Williams

Sir, I have read your gloomy, occasionally poignant reports on schizophrenia. I have experienced the prevailing apathy in a different way.

This summer I graduated from University College London with a first-class honours degree in anthropology (I received an award for the highest degree of the year). I was offered places at Oxford and UCL to study for a doctorate.

The subject was schizophrenia and psychotic hallucinations, and I duly applied to the ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council) for a grant, citing my concern at the wholesale release of patients into an ill-equipped community and the tragedies this could produce.

I was turned down. Graduates with lower degrees received grants for more conventional studies, usually of tribes or peasants abroad.

The ESRC declined to comment. The only conclusion my tutors and colleagues have been able to arrive at, not having experienced a similar situation, is that my proposal is seen as irrelevant.

For the record, "anthropology" in the OED is defined as "the science of mankind, in the widest sense".

Happily, I am about to begin my thesis (without financial help) thanks to the good will of the Maudsley Hospital.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL WILLIAMS,
61 Brixton Water Lane, SW2,
December 18.

From the Master of University College, Oxford

Sir, It is with satisfaction that I join the chorus of approval that has greeted your articles (December 16-18) and leader (December 19) on schizophrenia.

Mental disorders often arouse one of two responses: either they are studiously ignored as non-existent - particularly where they arise within a family circle - or they are met with an apprehensive concern and little supportive action.

It is in my view of great importance to recognise the need for much greater resources than are at present made available for psychological medicine. The incidence of psychological illness is as large if not larger than any other single ailment. In terms of the suffering involved - let alone the economic consequences in lost working hours - it is unarguable that it calls for a further focus.

I will leave it to more competent spokesmen from the college of which I have the honour to be an honorary fellow to voice a more professional endorsement; but the realisation of this concern, all with the readiness of the Bishop of Durham (and I suppose the Archbishop also) to count the body of little significance when it comes to the question of the Resurrection.

One cannot surely at the same time emphasise the material concerns of man as of essential significance to his being, while denying that our Lord's body had a share in the glory of the first Easter?

Yours,
DOUGLAS C. SPANNER,
St. George's, Main Street,
Wantage, Oxfordshire,
December 18.

From Mr David G. Lindsay

Sir, The only tax regime for the married that passes the tests of equity and neutrality, while at the same time recognizing the existence of "co-operative intent" in marriage (your leader of December 11) is "income splitting" (or its French "family quotient") variant. Millions of couples are taxed under these systems and I have yet to hear of any objection to them.

A regime of transferable allowances (why not also include the accountants' fees?) which would be on our present regime, none the less still results in one spouse being treated as the mere dependant of the other.

The reality of marriage is, of course, quite otherwise. It is a partnership and should be taxed as such, even where one of the spouses may, technically, not have an income of his/her own. After all, in the commercial world, partnership is not limited to the direct fee-earners, as any administrative or research partner can confirm.

There may be case, however, for a separate taxation option, particularly of investment income. This would enable each spouse to manage his/her own investments free from the tax complications of the other.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID G. LINDSAY,
36 Orchard Coombe,
Whitchurch Hill,
Reading,
Berkshire,
December 12.

I complained to my bank in Edinburgh that they persistently sent inadequately stamped mail to me. I received a pleasant letter of apology which said that my account would be credited with £10 on account of my "inconvenience and trouble". The bank statement which followed this letter and advised me of the £10 credit was inadequately stamped.

I am British and proud of it, but I regret to say that I am ashamed to admit this to my postman.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. K. TITHER,
Rue Champ du Roi 78,
Etterbeek,
B-1040,
Brussels,
Belgium,
December 9.

It is a tribute to the various postal authorities concerned that I have received a letter addressed to me in "Brussels, France" and one from a correspondent who chose to omit both the name of the town and the name of the country. Both of these letters came from the United Kingdom.

The post office in Belgium will not deliver under-stamped letters except on payment by the addressee of a penalty.

If I am out when the postman calls, as is usually the case, he leaves a card and I have to trek across town to the sorting office to collect the item of mail and pay the penalty. My frequent appearance at the sorting office on these errands gives rise to a great deal of good-natured ribaldry among the staff there.

Decline of skuas on Fair Isle

From Dr P. O'Donald

Sir, The Arctic skua is a beautiful seabird that has the annoying habit of diving on intruders in its nesting territory, often striking them on the head. Humans, dogs, sheep and other skuas are fiercely attacked. On Fair Isle, in Shetland, skuas have been the cause of much friction and controversy between islanders and ornithologists.

In the *Fair Isle Bird Observatory Report* for 1984, published recently, I saw that the population of Arctic skuas on the island has declined rapidly in numbers since the time when I worked on Fair Isle. From 1973 to 1979 I made an intensive demographic and genetic study of the Arctic skuas of Fair Isle. Their numbers increased until 1977 and thereafter started to decline.

Although the Arctic skua is a rare and protected bird and Fair Isle is a bird observatory owned by the National Trust for Scotland, Arctic skuas were regularly shot on Fair Isle after 1976. My demographic study showed that the annual adult mortality rose from 11 per cent in 1973-75 to 25 per cent in 1976-1978.

The actual numbers have declined from 114 pairs in 1979 to 95 pairs in 1983 and 74 pairs in 1984. This represents an average annual decrease of 7.2 per cent.

At the present rate, the population is being halved every two years: by 1990 it will have declined to 47 pairs, and by 2000 to 22 pairs.

Yours faithfully,
P. O'DONALD,
Emmanuel College,
Cambridge,
December 13.

Faith in the cities

From Professor Emeritus Douglas C. Spanner

Sir, The rather academic and discredited comment of the Archbishop of York (December 12) on the article by David Hart (December 9) will not allay the fears expressed in that article. The "philosophical climate" of which he speaks is hardly one in which humbler men and women consciously live and move, and they are the ones with whom the Church's report was most concerned.

I venture to think that when such men and women read the words, "On no fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul" (Matt. X, 28), or "Do not labour for the bread which perishes, but for the bread which endures to eternal life" (John VI, 27) they will understand them spontaneously as underlining a distinction the Archbishop seems intent on obscuring.

No doubt he has a point; the Bible does, after all, make man a unity, an "inspired body" (Gen. I, 7). But the realisation of this concept, all with the readiness of the Bishop of Durham (and I suppose the Archbishop also) to count the body of little significance when it comes to the question of the Resurrection.

One cannot surely at the same time emphasise the material concerns of man as of essential significance to his being, while denying that our Lord's body had a share in the glory of the first Easter?

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Taxing man and wife

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ON THIS DAY

DECEMBER 28 1897

Ten novels were reviewed on this day. Somerset Maugham (1874-1965) was a practising doctor when this first novel was published. He is the only one of the ten authors whose works are still in demand. Of the others many readers will remember the adventures of Captain Corcoran (1865-1844) like Maugham has loved to travel and made it a rule to cover 10,000 miles each year.

RECENT NOVELS.

LIZA OF LAMBETH is a striking example of misapplied talent. It is difficult to imagine how any writer with pretensions to refinement can have proffered to acquire the necessary knowledge, or, having acquired it, should have forgotten self-respect so far as to embody it in fiction. Fiction, indeed, we can all hardly call it, for the tale bears the impress of most cynical realism; nor can we easily suppose an imagination so pervasively depraved as to invent the repulsive details and introduce the significant side-effects. Mr. Maugham seems to aspire, and not unsuccessfully, to be the Zola of the New Cut - the historiographer of the London gutter. He is consciously aiming at shocking sensibilities or scandalizing average delicacy. He says his talk is expurgated, and we are free to believe it; nevertheless, it is free enough in all conscience, without the assistance of the significant links and strokes. But it is not so much the license and grossness of free-and-easy conversation that repel as the ingrained coarseness of the characters who figure in the scenes. The passion, and there is a veritable passion in this slum-tale, is almost lust; and in its rough animalism, a more bestial Lovelace has seldom been portrayed than that relatively respectable working-man, Mr. Jim Blackiston, with the wife who is the faintest excuse for his infidelity, and his half-score of children of all ages. The heroine, a girl of eighteen, meets herself when turning a Catherine-wheel before a barrel-organ and a crowd of appreciative spectators; and the death scene is disgusting almost beyond expression, with the gossiping sage-femina expatiating on her own occasional indiscretions and the trivialities of the coffin-maker, with the revolting incidents attendant on both callings. The sole gleam of brightness or attempt at relief is in the humours of a breakfast of picnicers bound on a Bank holiday to Epping Forest, where they eat to satiety and will be to stupefaction. And there, where we were to find a fight, with a succession of sharp rounds, between a couple of ladies, apparently borrowed from the washing-house scene in *L'Assommoir*. We should have preferred to ignore this singularly unpleasant novel were it not that, reading between the lines, we have the conviction that the author is capable of better things, for he has sensibilities himself, although ignoring them in his readers. . . .

We must protest in conscience against Mr. Cutcliffe Hyne's title-page. THE PARADISE COAL-BOT, which is the sole line of superlatives, implies a complete novel, yet it fills only 23 pages out of 270; nothing is said as to "other stories", nor is mention made of republication. Yet before we had dipped very deep in the volume Mr. Hyne had put us in such pleasant humour that we were willing to complete the novel, and the lines of the meadow of the stories is capital - in their own peculiar manner. They are cosmopolitan, they are extravagant, they are all very devil-may-careish, the nerves of the heroes are never shaken, and they achieve feats that are almost unbelievable. The lines of the meadow of the stories is capital - in their own peculiar manner. They are cosmopolitan, they are extravagant, they are all very devil-may-careish, the nerves of the heroes are never shaken, and they achieve feats that are almost unbelievable. 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THE ARTS

The cinema is ninety years old today. David Robinson looks back at its historic première

Visionaries who gave us a view to thrill

Today is the ninety-first birthday of the cinema. Even though priority among the rival inventors of motion pictures remains a matter of fierce controversy, it is agreed that cinema as public spectacle originated in Paris on December 28, 1895, when the Cinématographe, invented by the Lumière brothers of Lyon, was first exhibited before a paying public.

Louis Lumière was modest about his role: "What did I do? It was in the air, one day or another it was inevitable that the work of Janssen, Edison and above all Marey and his students would arrive at the same result." The perfection of motion pictures was simply a matter of putting together the elements that individually were well-known and well-used.

Since the seventeenth century numerous images had been projected by the magic lantern. Since the 1830s it was known that, thanks to a "typical phenomenon known as the persistence of vision", an impression of motion could be produced by a rapid succession of separate images. Photography came in with the 1840s, and since the 1870s Eadweard Muybridge, Jules Marey and others had developed cameras that could instantaneously record successive phases of motion. In the 1890s George Eastman put on sale the first celluloid roll film - the final element of the movies.

Nothing before had seemed so lifelike

Edison - or rather one of his assistants, W. K. L. Dickson - had almost solved the problems of 1891 with the Kinetograph camera which photographed motion picture film as we know it today, and the Kinetoscope, in which the resulting pictures could be shown, to produce the illusion of movement. The disadvantage of the Kinetoscope was that it was a peepshow, which could be viewed by only one person at a time. By the early Nineties a number of inventors in America, France, Germany, Britain and elsewhere were dedicated to solving the final problem of projecting the moving pictures so that they could be viewed by an entire audience. The Lumière brothers happened to be the first to come up with a wholly practical solution.

The Lumières, by 1895, were one of the best-known photographic manufacturers in the world. The founder of the firm, Antoine Lumière, was a colourful, ebullient man who had abandoned careers as a sign-painter and as a singer in Parisian cafés-concerts to become a photographer, first in Besançon, then in Lyon. With the introduction of dry-plate photography in the late Seventies, Antoine recognized a nascent industry in the manufacture of photographic materials. No scientist, he struggled vainly to develop a marketable photographic emulsion; and it was his brilliant 17-year-old son Louis who perfected the famous Lumière "Étiquette Bleue" plates which remained on the market for more than half a century.

The success of the new plates reversed the fortunes of Antoine's failing enterprise, whereupon he wisely left the running of the firm to his sons Auguste (born 1862) and Louis (born 1864) and devoted himself pleasurably to viticulture, painting and the good life.

Nevertheless, Antoine evidently remained the visionary of the family. On a trip to Paris in 1894 he saw the Edison Kinetoscope, and at once returned home to advise his sons that vast profits could lie in producing



Top left: the Cinématographe used as a projector; top right: a Lumière advertising billboard of 1896; above: Auguste and Louis Lumière; and right: the Grand Café, Paris, in 1895 where the first films were shown

films to supply the apparatus. Auguste and Louis - who as boys had sworn that any future patents would be in their joint names - obediently set about making a camera.

The challenge was to devise a mechanism that would give the film an intermittent motion, holding it stationary while each individual frame was exposed, and between exposures obscuring the lens with a shutter while the film moved to its next station. Louis claimed that he arrived at the solution in the course of a sleepless night while suffering from a cold. By February 1895 the brothers were ready to patent a device which not only served as a camera and printer but also finally solved the problems of projecting moving images.

The first film shot on the Cinématographe showed the employees pouring out of the Lumière factory at lunchtime. Louis exhibited it in the course of a lecture on the photographic industry in Paris on March 22. Even the Lumières were surprised at the impression it made on the audience and in the Press. During the rest of that year, the brothers busied themselves in building up a repertoire of films, and demonstrating the Cinématographe,

Louis and Auguste regarded the Cinématographe as a refinement of conventional photography. Evidently it was Antoine, old showman that he was, who decided to turn this scientific novelty into a public show. His sons kept themselves notably apart from the venture. It was their father who combed Paris to find suitable premises: after days of search he settled on a room in the basement of the Grand Café, Boulevard des Capucines, exotically decorated as an oriental divan and christened the Salon Indien.

Death will cease to be absolute

Auguste and Louis did not even go to Paris for the première. It was Antoine who hired the chairs, organized the arrangement of the room, with the projector screened by black velvet curtains, and greeted the audience at the preview held on the afternoon of Saturday December 28. The period between Christmas and New Year, with the boulevards crammed with pleasure-seekers, was traditionally an ideal time for launching novelties. Hardly any Press turned up for the

première (the show-business journalists were covering the marriage of Yvette Guilbert); and the Cinématographe opened quietly, with only 33 paying admissions at one franc a head on the first day. Word of mouth was like wildfire: within three weeks queues waited over an hour or the 20-minute shows, and receipts soared to 2,500 francs a day (to the chagrin of the Grand Café's proprietor, who had declined Antoine's proposal of 20 per cent of the receipts, preferring a guaranteed rent of 30 francs a day).

Contemporary impressions enable us to recapture at least an echo of the excitement of first seeing motion pictures. Nothing before had ever seemed so lifelike - "la nature prise sur le fait". The magic mirror predicted for centuries was a reality. Used to the stilted movement effected by mechanical lantern slides, people marvelled that the Cinématographe showed not only individual figures but whole groups of people in motion; that not only the foreground moved, but so did each individual leaf on the trees and every wave in the sea. Practically all the people who saw it at the time felt they had glimpsed immortality. "Death will cease to be absolute", wrote the critic of *La Presse* on December 30.

Life as well as death looked new and different on the screen. The audiences were charmed by shots of Auguste's baby daughter eating and watching goldfish; delicious with laughter at *L'Arroseur arrosé*, wherein an impish boy steps on the gardener's hose; stirred by the sight of workmen demolishing a wall; and alarmed by a train, seemingly advancing upon them out of the screen. This first show explored much of the entertainment potential of the cinema.

For a year or two the Lumières were to exploit their invention with the skill of industrialists. The Cinématographe was put into series production, and cameramen-projectionists were despatched all over the world, at once to stake out commercial territories and to send back exotic film materials to expand the Lumière catalogue. The brothers experimented with a giant screen and stereoscopy, but after the turn of the century abandoned movies for other interests, notably the development of colour photography. By the time they died - Louis in 1948 and Auguste in 1954 - they had seen their little scientific marvel (for which Antoine is said to have predicted only a limited commercial future) spawn vast industries and become an art.

Television

Love's labour's lost

"You shouldn't preach at people, it upsets them", advises one of the characters in *Coming Through* (ITV), Alan Plater's film about the early life of D. H. Lawrence and the later use made of the writer's work. There was a substantial amount of preaching done elsewhere in the programme itself.

Devised as a centenary tribute, *Coming Through* was partly straightforward biography and partly a modern romance in which Lawrence figured as the patron saint of the permissive society. "Sexual intercourse began in 1963... between the end of the Chatterbox ban and the Beatles' first LP", wrote Philip Larkin.

The basis for the longest sermon preached in this programme was that this was a mere historical accident, and that several generations of libidinous and ill-read youth have since introduced the work of an essentially puritanical man.

The thwarted desire of a post-graduate layabout for an Open University housewife was the vehicle for this argument. Philip Martin Brown and Alison Steadman as the modern lovers also had the difficult task of touring the Nottinghamshire countryside explaining the facts of Lawrence's early life for the benefit of a popular-channel audience in danger of seduction

by Stanley Baxter on the opposing network. This was a dismal obligation which strained the flow of their courtship severely. Meanwhile, back in history, Helen Mirren was appropriately bewitching as Frieda and Kenneth Branagh as the author had a role full of cheeky, contemporary flirtation gambits.

The character of Lawrence's father was given unusually sympathetic treatment; the miner's home itself was much more richly furnished than is customary in Lawrence biographies, with gold-framed pictures and smart wallpaper. However, the programme succeeded in presenting the family as a group of pitiable but essentially noble people brutalized by capitalism rather than by their own neuroses.

The modishness of D. H. Lawrence did not only coincide with liberalization of sexual attitudes but also with the birth of a mythology about working-class life in the North of England. The writer's work now needs to be freed from both these influences, and the problems afflicting *Coming Through* suggest that flat-cap and back-to-backs romance may be the more difficult to overcome.

Celia Brayfield

Radio

Christmas crackers

It is sad that radio's most prodigious efforts to attract audiences are made in the week of the year when it probably attracts less attention than at any other season. By and large, a stertorous nation will have dozed and regurgitated before its television set on Christmas afternoon, not beside its radio.

Yet I cannot help feeling that with so much already going against them, the sound broadcasters do sometimes compound their difficulties by also shooting themselves in the foot. For instance, who did they imagine on Christmas Day was going to be induced to sit down to 90 minutes of William Douglas-Home on Radio 4 at 2.00 pm?

Even on those three other days of the week when, yet again at 2.00 pm, there was yet more Douglas-Home - in new productions, richly cast and plainly meant to attract as large an audience of traditional Radio 4 listeners as possible - how many could in fact tune in? And I suspect that an intended Radio 2 magnet, *Hancock* at 12.30 on December 25, will have fared no better.

It was to prepare for the Annual Review tradition that I turned to what I wrote for the last Saturday of 1984. I closed then with a remark about the licence fee to the effect that, if the decision went against the BBC in its claim for £65, radio listeners might by now be facing reduced prospects. Well, in that sense it did go wrong and radio is having to take a rather large share of the ensuing economies - of which, incidentally, a higher rate of repeats is and will continue to be one of the symptoms.

Another will be the disappearance during the summer months of the 30-minute serial that now goes out on Radio 4 of

an early Sunday evening; apparently there is only enough cash to keep it going from October to March. I must say that as critic, if not as writer, I view this with some equanimity: standards here in recent months have not been very high, particularly in the choice of thrillers, most of which, as I shall tell you when I get to my Annual Review, I am nominating for the Conan Doyle Bronze Cowpat for 1985.

As for repeats, complaining about them is a favourite listener sport which invariably ignores the possibility that anybody might have missed the first broadcast. Moreover, apart from the fact that a repeat is often all that makes the writer's task worthwhile, there is another reason for them: take *The Forsythe Saga*, which first went out on Radio 2 and which Radio 4 has been repeating this last week. Here is a chance for a second audience to appreciate what the first, the Radio 2 lot, had disgraced itself by hating very much.

You cannot help feeling that people who can loath a lovely bit of lunacy like *Forsythe* do not deserve to keep their network and perhaps, if Professor Peacock utters a particularly harsh cry, they will not - for the threat to Radio 2 in 1985 was a real one, even if you find it as hard to credit as I do that retaining BBC local radio is preferred to the existence of a network.

Of course, as I have from time to time observed in 1985, the ways of managements really are pretty odd and I think that this does at last bring us naturally and inescapably to the week's main theme: the traditional, the obligatory Review of the Year... Watch this space.

David Wade

New York Opera

Great scenes but not always heard

A Metropolitan Opera season that got off to a somnolent start gradually stirred to life with a pair of new productions, *Khovanshchina* and *Le nozze di Figaro*, a study in contrasts in every respect.

One has learnt, when approaching Mussorgsky's music, to expect loose ends and rough edges, and to love him, warts and all. Similarly, one could find imperfections at every turn in a presentation that nevertheless added up to more than the sum of its parts and proved utterly absorbing.

The Met had staged the work once before, a run of four performances in the 1949-50 season, using the then standard Rimsky-Korsakov orchestration, with substantial cuts, in English. The current production - directed by August Everding, with sets by Ming Cho Lee and costumes by John Conklin - presents Shostakovich's 1958 realization, also cut, in Russian.

The musical heart of *Khovanshchina* lies in its brilliant and diversified choruses, and it was here that the Met forces, under the knowing direction of the Estonian conductor Neeme Järvi, excelled.

But, if the large-scale numbers were honed to perfection, some of the solo singing and smaller ensembles were not. Martti Talvela (Dosithe) and Aage Haugland (Ivan Khovansky), formidable giants, provided appropriate physical stature but

less vocal distinction than one had hoped for, particularly from the former.

In an odd bit of stage action, Wieslaw Ochman (Golitsyn), relatively diminutive both physically and vocally, provided a moment of inadvertent comedy, threatening to strike the hulking Haugland, who could have swatted him like a bothersome fly. (Discretion won in the end, however, for this Golitsyn shot Prince Ivan from a distance rather than stabbing him in the back.)

Most effective, was the conflagration of the hermitage in the final scene, with dense smoke inundating the Old Believers from every direction,

leaving a vivid final impression of flickering candles and the mighty sounds of the great final chorus.

In *Le nozze di Figaro* the performance, despite minor lapses in ensemble and sizeable weaknesses in subsidiary roles on the opening night, was more polished and tidier - perhaps too tidy for its own good.

Levine was on the podium here, and one feared a hard-driven juggernaut of a reading; but instead came a surprisingly relaxed and small-scale performance, eminently self-conscious. Far from verging on a golden age of Mozart interpretation, the Met seems in danger of forgetting how to perform his music on the company's terms.

If it is Mozart we want at the Met, then we had better scale it to the house. And this, for all its undeniable attractions, was Mozart in miniature.

The basic set of a classical edifice did lend itself to clever adaptation, but starting with Act II, the central archway opened into a cavernous space that closed much of the subsequent action. There could not have been more than a handful of decent sight-lines in the house, and some of the smaller voices were lost in the recesses.

Next, the Met, emboldened by its much-acclaimed *Rinaldo* of two seasons ago, tackles Handel's *Salomon*, which promises to raise even thornier issues of performance practice.

James R. Oestreich

LENNON and Sundays too ASTORIA THEATRE

Every day, the Save the Children lorries set out on their life or death mission in West Sudan.

It is the only way to move food, medical aid, shelter and blankets across an area twice the size of Great Britain to thousands of starving children.

From 17 centres our field workers on the spot ensure relief is taken to 50 villages for those who need it most.

It costs £42,000 a day to keep Save the Children's life support system in East and West Sudan running.

Without your support it will stop. And so will the lives of thousands of children.

Save the Children Christmas Appeal

To: The Save the Children Fund, Dept 5231206, 17 Grove Lane, London SE5 8RD.

I enclose £ (For a receipt, please send SAE)

OR debit my Access/Barclaycard account

No

SIGNATURE

NAME

ADDRESS

POST CODE

OR you can send through National Giro No. 5173000

OR you can phone Teledata 01-200 0200 to make your donation.

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LENNON and Sundays too ASTORIA THEATRE

مكتبة الأمل

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Distillers faces rebuff on monopolies reference

Distillers' 90,000 shareholders will be able to send for a free 17-minute video as part of the company's defence against the £1.9 billion takeover bid by James Gulliver's Argill Group. The offer is to be made in the company's formal defence document which is due to be published on Monday. The video attempts to highlight some of the company's achievements in world drinks markets and mentions Argill and the bid only once towards the end of the tape.

Final touches were being put to the defence yesterday as speculation grew in the stock market that the Office of Fair Trading is about to recommend against referring the bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Distillers had put considerable effort behind its lobby for a reference, believing that the six months it would take the MMC to investigate the matter would give it time to muster a more adequate defence.

But its contentions that Argill's bid involves a dangerous degree of debt leverage, and that Argill would not be a fit and proper steward of the Scotch whisky industry, have rightly fallen on deaf ears. Only a third of Argill's bid is in cash and the 100 per cent gearing that the combined group would end up with is not excessive for a business like Distillers, which is in a mature cash generating phase. Nor too, unless there is real evidence of intention, should mergers policy be concerned with the possibility of mismanagement. Any such judgement is bound to be subjective.

Ministers at both the Scottish Office and the Department of Trade and Industry are being brought under direct pressure to have the bid referred. Leon Brittan, with his battle lines already drawn with Michael Heseltine over Westland, is, however, unlikely to risk another political confrontation.

It therefore looks as if Distillers will be forced to stand and fight. Against the firepower of the smaller Argill it stands a good chance of winning, though given the way it has consistently ignored the City and the techniques of modern corporate management over the years, a larger opponent would certainly have swept it away. Even so, it will be a tough fight. Distillers' claim that it has always been a good marketer of Scotch (and has now woken up to the needs of its shareholders) matched by Argill's contention that recent changes are too little and too late.

Shares jump, page 12

PCW settlement prospects brighten

A standstill agreement preserving the legal rights of Lloyd's names prejudiced by the PCW affair is expected to be agreed in the next few days. Negotiations on a market solution to the names' £130 million or more losses can then begin in earnest.

Lloyd's confirmation that it is seeking an agreed settlement to the PCW affair spells hope that extensive litigation on both sides of the Atlantic against up to 20 defendants, including Lloyd's, can be avoided.

This is clearly best for Lloyd's and could well be best for the names, depending on the shape of the final solution. Stephen Merrett, the Lloyd's underwriter who masterminded the market rescue for Sasse names hit by fraud in

the late 1970's. Wrote of PCW in a Christmas booklet to his names: "The disadvantage to Lloyd's trading position should there be such a long, public exposure of misdeeds would very much exceed what it may cost the society to contribute to an agreed settlement of the issues".

The danger is that names' attitudes may have hardened to such an extent since the summer, when the scale of losses was first known, that an agreed settlement is much harder to reach. Names now know for certain that they have a good legal case against several parties.

In any settlement names will have to pay something, because their losses were caused by bad underwriting as well as fraud. The question is, how much? Separating what was caused by fraud and what by writing bad risks would be a painstaking and maybe an impossible task. All parties to the eventual settlement will have to accept some form of compromise.

Lloyd's resolve and ability to sort out the mess left by the PCW scandal comes at a crucial stage for the insurance market. The Labour MP Brian Sedgmore, has turned an unkind spotlight on Lloyd's in recent weeks, giving rise to calls from MPs on both sides of the House for the market to be included in the Financial Services Bill.

The Government has stated firmly that Lloyd's will not be included, but has also made clear it will not hesitate to amend the 1982 Lloyd's Act if it feels that is necessary.

Part of the thrust of the Lloyd's Act was to give representation and greater protection to names. Lloyd's is now clearly on its mettle to prove that the 1982 Act really does work.

New tin plan has a hollow ring

Desperation breeds ingenuity, and the one thing to be said for the latest plan to rescue the International Tin Council is that it does not lack inventiveness. Unfortunately it does not tackle the fundamental problem preventing a settlement of this disgraceful crisis, now in its third month.

The plan put forward by Ralph Kestenbaum and Peter Graham combines the best elements of the various schemes advanced to date: external financing by broker and banker, relieving the council of its stocks so as effectively to wind up the buffer stock and a measure of government involvement.

Unfortunately it is on this last rock that the project could all too easily founder. Governments such as those of France, West Germany and The Netherlands - not normally villains of the international scene - which have refused to accept that the ITC has a collective responsibility for its £900 million in obligations, are unlikely to be persuaded by the latest plan, not least because it envisages the council members putting up £200 million.

The fact that some ITC members have seen the latest proposals for their salvation as merely an opening offer demonstrates that the council is as far as ever from accepting its responsibilities. The banks and brokers are doing their honourable bit in trying to find financially acceptable solutions. The ITC members must provide the political will to make those solutions work.

Sandberg names successor at Hongkong & Shanghai Bank

By Jeremy Warner, Business Correspondent

Mr Michael Sandberg, chairman and chief executive of Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation, yesterday ended months of speculation about his successor by confirming that Mr William Purves, the bank's deputy chairman, will take over the position next year.

Mr Sandberg, aged 58, has been chairman of the bank, now ranked fourteenth largest in the world in terms of shareholders' funds, since 1977. He has overseen it through some of the most controversial and turbulent events in Hong Kong's history, including the collapse of the colony's property market and three years of negotiations between China and Britain over the territory's future.

At a press conference yesterday Mr Sandberg said that nine years as chairman was "about enough" and that "you go when you've got someone very good to take over".

Mr Purves, aged 54, will become chief executive in mid-March and chairman at a later unspecified point in 1986. Mr Sandberg is keen to stay on as chairman until the bank has completed its move to a new HK\$6 billion (£600 million) headquarters in the heart of Hong Kong's central business district. The building, designed by the British architect, Mr Norman Foster, and constructed by George Wimpey in co-operation with the Hong Kong firm of John Lok, is said to be the world's most expensive and most futuristic.

The high cost of the building has proved controversial both inside the bank and in Hong Kong's financial community, fuelling speculation of an early departure for Mr Sandberg.

Mr Purves said he expected the bank to become more orientated to financial services

in coming years but he did not foresee huge changes in policy during his tenure of office. The bank would continue to pursue additional business in Europe, but he denied suggestions that it would have to jockey for position with the Bank of China as the dominant force in the territory's economy when Hong Kong reverts to Chinese rule in 1997.

The Hong Kong Bank was recently granted permission to open the first branch of a foreign bank in China since communist rule began in 1949. It was chosen from a list which included leading European, Japanese, and American banks.

The Hong Kong Bank has a prime role in the colony's economy, acting as both its central bank and issuing most of its local currency.

Mr Purves, who has long been tipped as Mr Sandberg's suc-

cessor, is a present in charge of both commercial and merchant banking activities. He took over merchant banking arm, was criticized for its involvement with Carrin Investments, the property and shipping group which collapsed with debts of more than HK\$10 billion.

● In the City yesterday a new top lineup was announced at Samuel Montagu, the merchant banking subsidiary of Midland Bank.

The former diplomat, Sir Michael Palliser, is resigning as chairman of Samuel Montagu & Co., the banking offshoot, while remaining chairman of Samuel Montagu & Co. (Holdings). This will enable Mr Robert Logan, the group chief executive, to become chairman of the banking offshoot. Mr Christopher Sheridan remains chief executive of the banking operation.

IN BRIEF

62% accept BET bid

BET, the industrial services group, has declared unconditional its £8.1 million bid for G W Sparrow and Sons, the crane hire company. BET has acceptances for 62.7 per cent of Sparrow.

The company will be a valuable addition to the BET's plant services' operations, Mr Nicholas Willis chief executive of BET, said.

BET's other takeover attempt - for SGB, the scaffolding group - was thwarted temporarily last week by the refusal of the bid to the Monopolies Commission.

UEI sale

UEI is to sell its subsidiary, precision tool manufacturers J. Fisher & Co (Cleveland), to the Parkfield Group for £2.76 million in cash after a placing of Parkfield shares by Panmure Gordon & Co.

The pound took advantage of the dollar's weakness in Europe and later in New York yesterday. After closing above \$1.43 in London, the pound shot up a further cent to \$1.4420 by midday in New York. The dollar fell more heavily against the mark, especially after dropping through resistance at DM2.50 to settle at DM2.4685.

Japan jobless

Japan's unemployment last month was up 0.1 of a percentage point at 2.9 per cent, seasonally adjusted compared with October. The Government said yesterday. The unadjusted consumer price index fell 1 per cent to 115.1 from October's level.

Bank loss

Overseas Trust Bank, which had a loss of HK\$3.05 billion (£274 million) in the year to June 30 and had to be rescued by the Hong Kong Government, expects another loss in the present fiscal year, the chairman, Mr David Nandiel, said yesterday.

Rights success

Bestwood's rights issue of 1.71 million shares has been accepted for 95.7 per cent of the issue.

UK growth of 2-3% forecast

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Forecasters expect Britain's growth rate to be between 2 per cent and 3 per cent next year, and to be accompanied by lower inflation, steady or slightly declining unemployment and a big balance of payments surplus.

However, several forecasters, mindful of the run on the pound earlier this month point out that crashing oil prices and a tumbling pound could upset this reasonably bright prospect.

Several forecasters make the point that 1986 could be the last good year for a while, giving way to rising inflation, slower growth and a balance of payments deficit in 1987.

The centrepiece of the economic outlook for next year is the relationship between wages and prices. There is unanimity about the drop in the inflation rate, at least until the middle of the year. This, and expectations that there will be no let-up in the pace at which earnings are rising, produces a real income increase generally estimated at about 3 per cent.

Tax cuts in the Budget are therefore not essential to secure strong growth in domestic demand and a consumer-led rise in gross domestic product. Despite the determination of the Prime Minister and the Chancellor to put the control of

| THE 1986 FORECAST | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|--|---|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------|----------------|--|
| | Growth (GDP, average, prices, 04 per cent) | Inflation (retail, prices, 04 per cent) | Unemp't (million, 04) | Current account (£ bn, 04) | £ index (04) | Base rate (04) | |
| Treasury | 3.0 | 3.75 | 3.1* | 4 | 80.0* | - | |
| OECD | 2.25 | 4 | 3.1 | 3.5 | 80.0* | - | |
| National Institute | 1.9 | 3.0 | 3.05 | 2.3 | 80.5 | 6.5 | |
| LBS | 2.4 | 4.3 | 3.1 | 2.6 | 78.0 | 9.0 | |
| Liverpool Group | 3.0 | 3.5 | 3.1 | 5.4 | 78.0 | 8.5 | |
| Herley Centre | 1.9 | 4.7 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 81.6 | 10.0 | |
| Oxford Econ | 2.0 | 4.5 | 3.1 | 3.3 | 73.1 | 9.5 | |
| Phillips & Drew | 2.2 | 4.75 | 3.1 | 1.6 | 78.0 | 10.5 | |
| James Capel | 1.8 | 4.8 | 3.1 | 2.5 | 75.0 | 10.5 | |
| Simon & Coates | 2.4 | 4.3 | 3.1 | 2.7 | 77.0 | 10.5 | |
| Laing & Cruckshank | 2.4 | 4.8 | 3.1 | 1.4 | 74.1 | 10.5 | |
| Rat West Bank | 2.5 | 4.75 | 3.1 | 3.5 | 75.5 | 10.5 | |

*Assumption

inflation before tax cuts, City forecasters, still expecting a Budget giveaway of between £2 billion and £2.5 billion.

There are doubts about the Government's ability to keep inflation on a downward track. Most forecasters think that the low point will be the middle of next year, when 12-month changes in the retail price index benefit most from comparisons with the blip in inflation to 7 per cent last summer.

However, an upturn in the second-half of next year is expected by most (including the Treasury) as the favourable effects of sterling's rise in the past six months fade and as big increases in unit labour costs

force companies to push up prices.

Little help on inflation, is expected from a drop in mortgage rates. The general view is that bank base rates will not drop much below 10 per cent, if at all.

However, the National Institute for Economic and Social Research, whose forecast, admittedly is a little out of date, expects a drop in base rates to 6.5 per cent by the end of 1986.

The Institute, along with Professor Patrick Minford's Liverpool Group, is optimistic about inflation, with an end-of-year rate of 3 per cent. Liverpool expects inflation to be falling then, whereas the institute believes it will rise into

Telegraph man plans newspaper

By William Kay, City Editor

A consortium led by Mr Andreas Whittam Smith, City Editor of the Daily Telegraph, is planning to launch a quality national daily newspaper in October, using a business format closely modelled on that of Mr Eddy Shah's proposed paper.

The consortium has raised £2 million of first-round finance. This is to be followed in the new year by more than £15 million in a second fund-raising exercise.

Mr Whittam Smith who is to resign from the Daily Telegraph in the next few days, said: "We have had no turn-downs for money from the City, but the task was made much easier by Mr Shah".

Mr Whittam Smith added that he began work on his project within days of Mr Shah's plans being published. "I wholly admire what he is doing," Mr Whittam Smith said.

Mr Douglas Long, former deputy chairman and chief executive of Mirror Group Newspapers, is another member of the consortium along with Mr Matthew Symonds and Mr Stephen Glover, colleagues of Mr Whittam Smith on the Daily Telegraph.

The new paper will be aimed at ABC 1 readers in the 20-45 age group. The cover price will be approximately 25p, and the target circulation will be 400,000. It is hoped that half of that will come from existing newspaper readers and half from new readers.

Share sale threat to Britannia

By Michael Prest, Financial Correspondent

Guinness Peat, the commodity and financial services group which for two months has been battling for control of investment management group Britannia Arrow, has given a warning that it might sell its stake and depress the Britannia share price if the bid fails.

It did so in an effort to bolster its position in the struggle. The Guinness Peat offer is 140p cash or 144.4p in shares and loan stock for each Britannia share.

Morgan Grenfell, adviser to Guinness, in a document, asks: "When would Britannia shareholders see 140p again, particularly if Guinness Peat decides to sell its stake?"

A defensive concert party led by Mr Robert Maxwell's Pergamon Press controls almost 20 per cent of Britannia, while Guinness Peat has 29 per cent. Both sides are still accumulating shares.

Morgan Grenfell confirmed that the Guinness Peat offer will not be increased and that it will expire on Friday. It argued that a "white knight" is unlikely to ride to Britannia's rescue.

Morgan Grenfell said that failure to accept the Guinness Peat offer could lead to a stalemate in which neither party had full control.

"The most likely outcome is that Guinness Peat would then sell its stake - it could so at any price down to 105p per share and still have achieved a profit, and a £50 million issue of securities at a premium."

Holmes & Marchant to pay £4.9m for Blitz

By Alison Eadie

Holmes & Marchant, the sales promotion and graphic design consultancy which joined the Unilever Securities Market last May, is buying Blitz Design & Graphics for a maximum £4.9 million.

Blitz specializes in corporate and product brochures, exhibition design and audio-visual productions. In the eight months to September 30, Blitz made pre-tax profits of £222,000 on turnover of £1.35 million.

It has achieved compound growth in turnover of more than 60 per cent a year since 1981. The £4.9 million payable

initially and two deferred payments of £1.7 million each dependent on pre-tax profits reaching £525,000 in the year to September 30, 1986, and £750,000 in 1987. Payment will be reduced by £6 for every £1 shortfall in profit. The purchase price will be almost wholly paid in shares.

● President Alan Garcia announced yesterday that Peru had nationalized the assets of the American oil company Belco because it refused to accept new conditions for exploration and production.

MARKET SUMMARY

| STOCK MARKETS | | MAIN PRICE CHANGES | | INTEREST RATES | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| FT Ind Ord | 1,123.3 (+7.1) | RISER: | Central & Sheerwood | 6p+1p | London: |
| FT All Share | 876.10 | Edmond Higgs | 13p+2p | Bank Base: 11½% | 3-month Interbank 11½% 11½% |
| FT Govt Securities | 83.00 (+0.07) | Abaco Inv | 33p+4½p | 3-month eligible bills: | buying rate 11½% - 11½% 11½% |
| FT-SE 100 | 1,398.9 (-7.4) | Electronic Machine | 60p+8p | US: | |
| Bargains | 9,228.0 | Westland | 85p+10p | Prime Rate 8.5% | |
| Datastream USM | 104.72 (+0.28) | Munton Bros | 22p+2p | Federal Funds 7¼% | |
| New York | 1,536.11 (+9.52) | Com Tech Corp | 91½p+¾p | 3-month Treasury Bills | 6.98-6.983% |
| Tokyo | 1,536.11 (+9.52) | British Benzol | 60p+5p | 30-year bond price 106½% - 106¼% | |
| Michael Dow | 1,730.37 (+12.83) | DBE Tech | 55p+4p | | |
| Hong Kong | 252.1 (up) | American Elect Comp | 27p+2p | | |
| Amsterdam | 997.2 (+3.2) | Morris Fine Art | 23½p+1½p | | |
| Sydney: AO | 1,937.1 (+28.1) | W. Tyzack & Turner | 23p+3p | | |
| Frankfurt | 282.0 (+3.2) | Reuners | 350p+21p | | |
| Copernicusbank | 1,937.1 (+28.1) | Unigroup | 121p+7p | | |
| Braun: | 28.03 (+3.28) | Kalson Grp | 27½p+1½p | | |
| General | 282.0 (+2.04) | Yorkville | 220p+12p | | |
| Paris: CAG | 498.0 (+0.80) | Aaronita Grp | 38p+2p | | |
| Zurich: | | Benlox Higgs | 20p+1p | | |
| SKA General | | Wadkin | 120p+8p | | |
| | | Beacham Grp | 383p+15p | | |
| | | Ocean Trans & Trog | 189p+7p | | |
| GOLD | | FALLS: | | CURRENCIES | |
| London fixing: | an \$324.80m - \$326.85 | Bristol Oil & Min | 11p-1p | London: | |
| close | \$326.75-327.25 - \$328.00 | WA Higgs | 36p-2p | £: \$1.4355 (+0.0105) | |
| 228.50 | | Seacord Grp | 144p-8p | DM 3.5522 (-0.0228) | |
| New York | | | | Sfrfr 2.9820 (-0.0123) | |
| Comex (Latest) | \$326.95 | | | £: 10.8817 (-0.0703) | |
| | | | | Yen 280.22 (+1.06) | |
| | | | | £ index: 77.9 (unchanged) | |
| | | | | New York: | |
| | | | | £: \$1.4365 | |
| | | | | DM 2.4740 | |
| | | | | £ index: 125.34 (-0.8) | |
| | | | | ECU 20.914863 | |
| | | | | SDR N.A. | |

EUROPE '86: From strength to strength.

In September 1984 we strongly recommended Europe as the place to invest. Our judgement has proven to be sound.

The Oppenheimer European Growth Trust has risen by a remarkable 76%* since its launch in September 1984 to 1st December 1985.

For four months running our fund is the top performing European Unit Trust over the preceding twelve month period.

It was cited in the Winners Sector of the Observer on 15th December.

We believe that investment prospects remain outstanding in Europe for 1986. To take full advantage act now.

Contact our dealers on

01-236 3885 (6 lines).

*Offer to bid from launch 1.9.84 to 1.12.85 net income reinvested.

Source: Planned Savings.

The price of units can go down as well as up.

A MEMBER COMPANY OF THE
Mercantile House Group
INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Speculation over a cut in the federal discount rate and a slide in US federal funds undermined the dollar on the foreign exchange markets yesterday.

In the thin conditions the decline in the dollar was exaggerated, but the mark and, to a lesser extent, sterling showed some useful gains.

The pound finished the day showing a cent gain at \$1.4355, although its trade-weighted index stayed unaltered at the final calculation of 77.9.

This reflected the pound's easier tendency against leading continental currencies, particularly the DM which rose 2½ pence against the pound at DM 3.5500.

The German currency was particularly favoured, enjoying some light corporate buying.

Talk that the US authorities may cut the 7½ per cent US federal discount rate over the weekend was mainly instrumental in forcing the dollar lower.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

| Market rates | Market rates | 1 month | 3 months |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| New York | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| London | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Frankfurt | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Paris | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |

OTHER STERLING RATES

| Market rates | Market rates | 1 month | 3 months |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| New York | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| London | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Frankfurt | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Paris | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

| Market rates | Market rates | 1 month | 3 months |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| New York | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| London | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Frankfurt | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Paris | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |

EURO-CURRENCY SPOTS %

| Market rates | Market rates | 1 month | 3 months |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| New York | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| London | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Frankfurt | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Paris | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |

EURO-CURRENCY FUTURE %

| Market rates | Market rates | 1 month | 3 months |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| New York | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| London | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Frankfurt | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Paris | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |

EURO-CURRENCY TENDER

| Market rates | Market rates | 1 month | 3 months |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| New York | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| London | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Frankfurt | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Paris | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |

COMMODITIES

| Market rates | Market rates | 1 month | 3 months |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| New York | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| London | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Frankfurt | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Paris | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |

COMMODITIES

| Market rates | Market rates | 1 month | 3 months |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| New York | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| London | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Frankfurt | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Paris | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |

COMMODITIES

| Market rates | Market rates | 1 month | 3 months |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| New York | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| London | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Frankfurt | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Paris | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |

COMMODITIES

| Market rates | Market rates | 1 month | 3 months |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| New York | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| London | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Frankfurt | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Paris | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |

WALL STREET

New York (Agencies) - The market climbed higher in light holiday trading yesterday. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 9.52 to 1536.01 by mid-morning.

The New York Stock Exchange rose 0.68 to 120.21 and the price of an average share increased by 21 cents. Advances led declines by 980 to 313 among the 1,744 issues crossing the tape.

Big board volume amounted to about 26.7 million shares compared with 23 million in the same period on Thursday.

WALL STREET

| Market rates | Market rates | 1 month | 3 months |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| New York | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| London | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Frankfurt | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Paris | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |

WALL STREET

| Market rates | Market rates | 1 month | 3 months |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| New York | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| London | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Frankfurt | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Paris | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |

WALL STREET

| Market rates | Market rates | 1 month | 3 months |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| New York | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| London | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Frankfurt | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Paris | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |

WALL STREET

| Market rates | Market rates | 1 month | 3 months |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| New York | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| London | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Frankfurt | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Paris | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |

WALL STREET

| Market rates | Market rates | 1 month | 3 months |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| New York | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| London | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Frankfurt | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Paris | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |

WALL STREET

| Market rates | Market rates | 1 month | 3 months |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| New York | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| London | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Frankfurt | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Paris | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Oslo | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |

WALL STREET

| Market rates | Market rates | 1 month | 3 months |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| New York | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| London | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Frankfurt | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Paris | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 |
| Stockholm | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1.4355 | 1.4355-1 |

See out the old, ring in the new with a bumper quiz that tests...

Are you a money quiz whizz?



Welcome to the Family Money Quiz. It's time to shake off the torpor and take your brain for a walk through our maze of questions. They have been selected for the widest appeal and we hope the whole family will join in to test their memories and knowledge. All the answers have been featured in Family Money over the past 12 months.

1. Which, according to Sotheby's Art Index, had proved the better investment at the end of August 1985, Chinese Ceramics or English Furniture?
2. What is the normal minimum age a houseowner must be in order to benefit from a home equity release policy which provides an income from the home?
3. Which three of the top five high street banks offered students a low-cost loan when starting work as part of their new autumn package?
4. What was the price set per share for the sale of the remainder of the Birtel shares?
5. What was a bank sweep arrangement?
6. What is CRT, at what rate is it charged, and when did it become effective?
7. Which Business Expansion Scheme this year was used to fund a West End musical?



A. This man believes a garden is a better investment than a kitchen - who is he?



B. Who is he and what was the nature of the storm he weathered?



C. What have Judith Chalmers and Neil Macfarlane in common?

8. Which building society offers children membership of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds or the World Wildlife Fund as an incentive to save?
9. What kind of organization is OPAS, and who chairs it?
10. Who is the new banking ombudsman and when does he start operating?
11. Which high street bank has set up its own chain of estate agents this year by buying out local firms?
12. Which firm of stockbrokers opened a share shop in an Oxford Street store?
13. How much can a student who receives no grant earn this tax year if his parents covenant £2,205 p.a. for his term-time maintenance, before he becomes liable for tax?
14. How long do you have to hold gifts before they cease to be subject to capital gains tax?
15. What is the number of the EEC form you should complete before holidaying in Europe to ensure free medical treatment?
16. Do the provisions of the Sale of Goods Act 1979 apply to sale goods?
17. In a recently published (November 1985) report on unit trusts, one fund appeared in the top ten figures for 10 months, 1 year and two years - which was it?
18. In the year to October 1, 1985, which showed the best average performance in the UK growth sector - unit trusts or investment trusts?
19. Who or what is NASDIM?
20. What was the closing date for applications for British Aerospace shares and how many were offered?
21. In his 1984 Budget the Chancellor Nigel Lawson withdrew tax relief on BES investments in farming. From what sector did he withdraw tax relief in 1985?
22. Why did Jennifer Pinder end up in court, and did she win her case?
23. Which insurance companies told Family Money they were willing to quote for home insurance excluding their cover?
24. What is the minimum financial requirement to become a full Lloyd's "name"?
25. What major new exhibition took place in September at Olympia?
26. Which area had the highest rates rise in 1985-86?
27. Under new EEC regulations leaseholders can buy their homes. True or false?
28. When is stamp duty on a house purchase not payable?
29. Who is famous for insisting on the right to do-it-yourself conveyancing, and has written a book on the subject?
30. What is the Isle of Man's 10 oz gold coin called?
31. How many inquiries did the Insurance Ombudsman receive in 1984? Was it a) 500; b) 1,000; c) 2,000; or d) more than 3,000?
32. What is Serps, and why has it been in the news?
33. In the 12 months to October 1985, which stockbroker ran the most successful stockbroker unit trusts?
34. Which major privatization has recently been postponed, and why?
35. Which was the top-performing unit trust over the first six months of this year?

I hope you have enjoyed the quiz. Answers are on page 24 of Family Money.

Why breaking up is hard on the pocket

DIVORCE

A survey in a women's magazine recently revealed: "Money is the danger zone in modern marriages." When it comes to divorce, however, the danger zone can turn into a battlefield.

One in three marriages now ends in divorce and money remains the biggest area of dispute. The financial aspect of divorce is not only difficult where there is a shortage of money to go round, but problems also arise when there are substantial assets to divide.

In the Court of Appeal Mary Duxbury, ex-wife of the millionaire John Duxbury, was awarded a lump sum of £600,000 plus a £110,000 house and £40,000 in contents. Mr Duxbury had contested the settlement but the court refused to order any reduction in the figure.

The Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act, 1984 revised the guidelines to the courts on the matters to be taken into account when making financial and property orders on divorce and marriage breakdown.

The courts must now place greater emphasis on people becoming self-sufficient - encouraging, where possible, a clean break. The income, earning capacity, property and other financial resources of both parties, present and future, must be considered.

In the Duxbury case, the husband earned £145,000 a year as a company chairman; and it was said he was worth £2.75 million.

Peter Grose-Hodge, of the Solicitors' Family Law Association, commented: "Quite often the husband's worth is the point around which the whole argument focuses. A good matrimonial lawyer will work in tandem with an experienced accountant when it comes to valuing shareholdings in a company. The court is only too aware of the problems of leaving a wife as a shareholder."

Courts try to maintain standard of living

"They are, therefore, far more likely to give a wife an increased share of other assets to avoid further conflict."

The court will also look at the financial needs, obligations and responsibilities, present and future, of the parties.

The "needs" of an ex-wife, where there are large sums involved, has been interpreted as "reasonable requirements". Any arithmetical guidelines such as one-third or one-half of joint assets are therefore often irrelevant.

In 1982, in the case of Preston v Preston, one of the judges declared that the wife of a man with a fortune of £2 million can reasonably be expected to have a home costing £200,000 to £300,000. One of the other judges said in the same case that the wife was entitled "to a very comfortable and even luxurious life."

Depending on the context, "reasonable requirements" can mean villas abroad, holidays, houses, cars and payment of school fees.

The court in the Duxbury case looked carefully at the third criterion laid down under the Act - the standard of living enjoyed by the family before the breakdown of the marriage. The judges believed the income that Mrs Duxbury would earn from the £600,000 lump sum she had

been awarded would keep her "in the proper style". Jill Trella, a matrimonial lawyer, commented: "In these cases the courts will try to maintain the standard of living as far as possible. However, while a husband may be extremely wealthy on paper, if his capital is mainly tied up in his business, the courts are reluctant to make any order which would jeopardize the future of the business."

The other factors the court will consider include the age of the parties, and the length of the marriage, any physical or mental disability, the contribution which each of the parties has made or is likely to make to the welfare of the family, the parties' conduct if it would be inequitable to disregard it, and any loss of pension rights.

In the Duxbury case, Mrs Duxbury had argued "that the court should also take into account that Mrs Duxbury could spend the money she received on another man with whom she was living and who, it was said, was earning £90 per week."

The court disagreed. As far as the court was concerned, the fact that Mrs Duxbury could

Lump sums are a one-off payment

spend money on her live-in lover was no more relevant than if she had an elderly relative living with her.

Mr Grose-Hodge said: "The court is not concerned with any moral aspect. If a live-in lover, however, is a pop star or someone else with considerable wealth, then the situation may be different."

The judges were also not prepared to accept Mr Duxbury's argument that the lump sum should be reduced and maintenance payments awarded instead, because Mrs Duxbury might one day remarry.

Where a lump sum is ordered to be paid in a divorce settlement, it is a one-off payment. It usually cannot be varied and it cannot be asked for a second time.

Therefore, if an ex-wife marries again only a few months after receiving a substantial lump sum, the ex-husband would usually have no redress unless he could show that the wife had a settled intention to marry and had concealed the fact.

In 1982 a case was reopened when a wife, who had concealed her intention to remarry, received the matrimonial home as part of her divorce settlement and transferred it to her and her new husband a day later.

If Mrs Duxbury had been awarded periodical maintenance payments as Mr Duxbury had asked for, he could go back to the court if there were any changes in the circumstances. Furthermore, if she actually remarried, any periodical payments would cease.

Where there are substantial sums of money involved, Mr Grose-Hodge had one final piece of advice: "A matrimonial lawyer has got to know when to accept an offer of settlement - otherwise his client may lose out in the long run."

"I know of a case where every time the husband's and wife's solicitors talked on the telephone the husband's solicitor dropped his offer of settlement by £5,000. He had started by offering £50,000 and the offer is now down to £30,000."

Susan Fieldman

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*Based on Guinness Peat's offer of 15 ordinary shares plus 80p nominal of Loan Notes for every 8 Britannia ordinary shares. Guinness Peat's ordinary shares closed at 70p on 20th December 1985 (the latest practicable date before the production of this advertisement) and the Loan Notes are taken at par.

‡The cash payment of 140p is based on the cash alternative value of 137p per Britannia ordinary share plus Britannia's forecast final dividend of 3.0p (net) per share.

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FAMILY MONEY/2

Despite the popularity of unit trusts, Lawrence Lever finds that a lot of savers would have gained more from building societies

The year when so many investments went into the red

More than a quarter of the unit trusts available to the public since the beginning of 1985 lost money for investors. Out of the total of 716 funds a staggering 201 are in the red as far as investors are concerned.

Moreover, if you assume that a building society investment would have averaged a net rate of interest of 9 per cent over the year, then only a mere 238 of the 716 unit trusts actually beat this.

The above figures are based on *Planned Savings* statistics from January 1 to December 15, on the offer-to-bid basis with net income reinvested. They represent a sorry advertisement for the unit trust industry as a whole, and particularly for the unit trusts which dominate the loss-making 201 trusts.

It is difficult to award booby prizes to individual groups for overall bad performance - there are any number of candidates.

Target Trust Managers are certainly worthy of a booby prize for overall performance, although this does not mean they were the worst performers of 1985. Target did have one sector leader - Target Preference Share's £112.20 put it top of the gilt and fixed interest income sector.

However, out of a total of 19 Target unit trusts, lost money

for investors over the year - a pretty amazing performance.

Target also managed to have three unit trusts in the overall bottom 15 - all of which are down by more than one fifth! The highest overall position managed by the 19 Target unit trusts was 65th, in the form of Target UK Capital.

Target Trust Managers Ltd is a subsidiary of Target Group plc, which, according to the *Unit Trust Yearbook*, is "backed by the substantial international resources of its investment advisers Morgan Grenfell. Target managed to beat the 9 per cent net building society investment with only four of its unit trusts.

To be fair, Target is in good company with its booby prize. Lloyds Bank also deserves one for having five out of nine unit trusts in the statistics, coming below the break-even line. And while Target had at least one very creditable performer, the highest that Lloyds could manage was 209th position.

Lloyds was, in accordance, to the year book, the first of the large clearing banks to launch its own unit trust.

Touche Remnant has the same number of unit trusts in the table as Lloyds Bank, but its performance under the TR banner is entirely different and very impressive.

TR Special Opportunities is the third highest of all unit trusts over 11 months. TR Smaller Companies is 27th, and TR General Growth is 39th as well as coming top of the UK general section.

TR American Growth comes second in the North American sector, while TR Special Opportunities Trust is second in the UK Growth sector. Six TR unit trusts came in the top 120 places, seven beat building society investment and only one below the break-even level.

The managing director John Gittings points out that Touche Remnant entered the unit trust world through the unitization of the Cedar Investment Trust. It was this trust that has become TR Overseas Growth - the only poor performer.

This poor but exceptional performance in TR's terms was caused by a failure to hedge the dollar, and the fact that no single individual fund manager was responsible for the trust's performance.

According to Mr Gittings TR rewards its unit trust managers "generously", but does not have "specific performance-related pay". He says: "We have quite a young team. We use people in their late twenties to mid-thirties."

One of the star performers,



Vanguard's Peter Spiller, Leonard Klahr, Kenneth Levy



Colin McLean: 'Wide remit'



Alan Wren: 'More launches'

John Alexander: Making notes

this year at least, is the 27-year-old manager, John Alexander, who was responsible for TR Special Opportunities and TR General Growth - both high-flyers.

"If I wasn't a fund manager I would be a furniture maker," says Mr Alexander, a self-professed handyman, whose current hobbies include "doing up a school house in Dorset". He puts his own spare cash into antiques and furniture.

"There is a lot of hype around," he says of the markets generally. "I am much more interested in taking a large stake in the companies that I know more about than the market."

Mr Alexander spends a lot of time making notes of conversations with brokers, company management and the like. He also spends an equivalent amount "cutting up newspapers". The overall intention

is to maintain copious records of information, easily accessible for quick decisions.

"You've got to be able to respond very quickly to quick lines of stock which come on offer," he says.

Moreover, "every stock develops its own characteristic", largely because, for example, every one is a product of certain types of investor, or has a certain type of stockbroker behind it.

By recognizing those characteristics, and knowing when they can happen, he is able to pick up some very good deals.

The Prudential's foray into the unit trust scene, with nine unit trusts under the Holborn banner, has also been successful, for the Pru and for investors, although not in TR terms.

The Holborn banner comes fifth overall in the shape of

Holborn International Growth, which is also top of the international sector.

Holborn UK Growth comes 21st overall and sixth in the UK Growth sector. This is not at all bad when you consider that the Pru has had only five trusts up and running for 11 months.

Alan Wren, managing director of Prudential Unit Trust Managers Ltd, says the Pru is planning more unit trust launches in the near future.

One of these is the Holborn Communications Trust, which will specialize in investing in companies that are already successful in exploiting new communications techniques.

In effect, the Pru is going for those companies that have already made it in the communications industry - or are almost there. It will not invest in high-risk start-ups or similar situations.

Carlton Communications and Cable and Wireless are two companies that the Pru is quoting in its promotional blurb as suitable for the new Communications Trust.

Meanwhile, Trevor Pullen, the immediate overseer of all the Holborn unit trusts, admits that because the Pru has such vast sums of money under management, this does give it some clout when it comes to getting good deals for the unit trusts.

He says: "The clout is not in terms of brokers' favours, but rather in our ability to attract important information into our office and our ability to analyse this information so that we know when to buy - and sell too. We are not tame shareholders."

The Pru pays its unit trust fund managers a salary and a bonus. The amount they take home does depend, albeit indirectly, on how well the funds they manage.

Vanguard, a banner waved by the brokers Capel-Cure Myers, has performed exceptionally well this year. Altogether there is about £30 million in the five Vanguard Unit Trusts, and four of these feature highly in the one-year charts.

Three out of the four come in the top 75 overall, and the fourth occupies 114th place.

The top-performing trust from the stable is Vanguard Special Situations. In 23rd place overall - while Vanguard High Yield occupies 37th overall and comes second in the UK equity income sector.

Tony Patterson, director of Capel-Cure Myers and head of its fund management department, says Vanguard unit trusts started being marketed to the public only late this year, because of the view that held sway for a long time that a broker publicly marketing unit trusts could be seen to be competing with its institutional clients Capel-Cure Myers for instance, works for the mighty M & G.

"The world has changed quite a bit. The important thing is to be able to provide a good service in all directions," says Mr Patterson. "Clients have altered their attitude."

It is also worth noting that the nucleus of the Vanguard team has been together for several years. None of the managers is responsible for unit trusts alone - Capel-Cure Myers has £1.1 billion under management. Every unit trust, however, will have a lead manager, in a team of two.

The lead manager on the High Yield fund is Leonard Klahr, aged 39, who says he had

Continued on facing page

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TOP 20 UNIT TRUSTS 1985*

Current value of £100 invested from January 1 to December 16, 1985

| Fund | £ |
|------------------------------|-------|
| FTA All Share | 116.3 |
| FT Ordinary | 119.2 |
| Cot Int'l World | 109.8 |
| FS Balanced Growth | 103.6 |
| Oppenheimer European Grth | 100.0 |
| TR Special Opportunities | 149.1 |
| Simon & Coates Spec Sits | 148.4 |
| Holborn International Growth | 147.0 |
| Murray European | 146.1 |
| Guinness Mahon Recovery | 144.3 |
| Baring First Europe | 144.3 |
| Mercury European Growth | 144.1 |
| Gre European | 142.5 |
| Grofund European | 142.3 |
| Tyndall European Growth | 142.0 |
| Govett European Growth | 141.6 |
| Baring Europe | 140.5 |
| Hill Samuel European | 139.5 |
| County Bank Financial | 139.3 |
| Arbutnot Pils Europe | 139.2 |
| Oppenheimer UK Growth | 138.9 |
| Barrington European | 138.1 |
| Hambros European | 137.0 |

*Offer-to-bid price - net income reinvested

Source: *Planned Savings*.

BOTTOM 10 UNIT TRUSTS 1985*

Current value of £100 invested from January 1 to December 16, 1985

| Fund | £ |
|----------------------------|------|
| M&G Australasian & General | 70.9 |
| Britannia Gold & General | 70.3 |
| Britannia Universal Enrgy | 68.0 |
| Gartmore Gold Share | 64.5 |
| Aitken Hume Energy & Res | 64.0 |
| Schroder Gold | 62.7 |
| Target Malaysia & Singpor | 59.8 |
| Schroder Singpor & Malayn | 58.8 |
| Waverley Pacific Energy | 57.5 |
| Henderson Singpor & Malay | 56.3 |

*Offer-to-bid price - net income reinvested

Source: *Planned Savings*.

TOP 10 UNIT TRUSTS 1985 - BY SECTOR

*Current value of £100 invested from January 1 to December 16, 1985

| UK General | £ |
|----------------------------|-------|
| TR General Growth | 127.4 |
| Stewart Ivory Brit Capital | 125.3 |
| Robert Fraser | 124.9 |
| Mersey General | 122.3 |
| S&P Scot Shares | 120.5 |
| Fidelity Growth & Income | 120.2 |
| Henderson Income & Assets | 119.5 |
| M&G Midland & General | 118.5 |
| Trades Union Units | 118.1 |
| Henderson Income & Growth | 118.0 |
| UK Growth | £ |
| FS Balanced Growth | 103.6 |
| TR Special Opportunities | 149.1 |
| Simon & Coates Spec Sits | 148.4 |
| Guinness Mahon Recovery | 144.3 |
| Oppenheimer UK Growth | 138.9 |
| Vanguard Special Sits | 135.2 |
| TR Smaller Companies | 133.3 |
| Arkwright | 128.7 |
| County Bank Smaller Cos | 124.1 |
| UK Equity Income | £ |
| SKG Income & Grth Retmnt | 132.4 |
| Vanguard High Yield | 127.8 |
| S&P Scootyields | 123.2 |
| Moel London Income & Grth | 122.5 |
| New Court Income | 122.2 |
| James Capel Income | 122.0 |
| Lazard Income | 121.4 |
| SEP High Yield | 121.3 |
| L&C Income | 121.3 |
| Clerical Med Eqty High Inc | 121.0 |

*Offer-to-bid price - net income reinvested

Source: *Planned Savings*.

Continued on facing page

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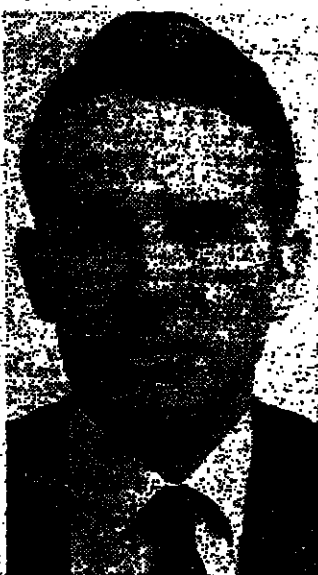
FAMILY MONEY/3

- even so, some wiser selections have given much more generous yields in 1985



Stephen Barber: 'Team effort'

Continued from previous page
been managing unit trusts of this type for 13 years.
"I took advantage of the state of convertibles earlier this year," he says, "and picked up the Woolworth and Burton convertible."
Other constituents of the High Yield trusts are Lounho, Unigate and Volex.
Oppenheimer Fund Management deserves a special mention for its excellent overall performance. It has four funds in the top 100, three of which come in the top 40 and one which is second overall. Altogether it has 10 funds in the tables.
One high performer is the Oppenheimer European Growth, which comes top of the European sector with a highly impressive £160 return. The manager Martyn Page, aged 46, is a former financial journalist on the now defunct *Rand Daily Mail*.
He says "We have taken large positions both in certain countries and individual stocks. We anticipate the growth in Germany early on and have benefited from it."
Mr Page deals very heavily



Martyn Page: 'Growth'

through British brokers - he "doesn't mind paying extra commission" that this entails.
He explains: "You get people in London who can give a view of the whole of the Continent."
At the moment Oppenheimer European Growth has approximately two-thirds of its investments split more or less evenly between West Germany and Switzerland.
The next largest exposure is France which accounts for about 12 per cent. And it is worth bearing in mind that this particular trust is by no means a small one - it is actually around the £19 million mark - and given that size often makes performance that little bit more difficult, this reflects very positively indeed on Mr Page's performance.
Another interesting aspect to the performance of the Oppenheimer stable, is that the two unit trusts it has as sector leaders beat the nearest rivals hands down.
After the European Growth's performance - comes Murray Europeans, which is almost 14 points behind. In effect Oppenheimer European Growth beat its nearest rivals by 14 per cent.



Trevor Pullen: 'Not tame'

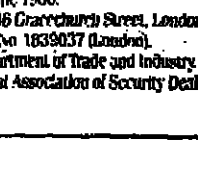
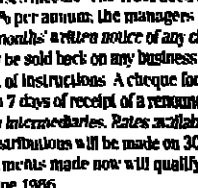
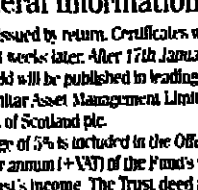
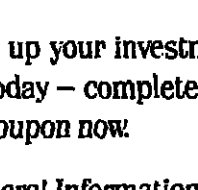
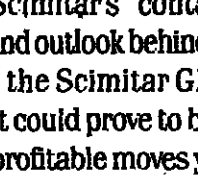
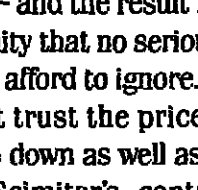
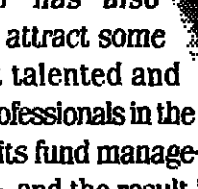
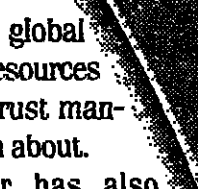
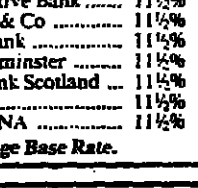
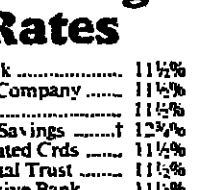
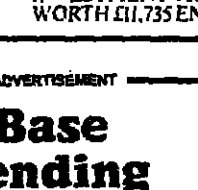
The Oppenheimer Pacific Growth, which tops the Far East sector, with a return of £128.70, is more than 17 per cent clear of its nearest rival, Dunedin Far East, which achieved a return of £110.70.
Making money out of a Japanese unit trust has been possible but a lot harder work this year than previously when managers sat back, happily riding the high technology and exporters boom. A little more sophistication was needed this year, and the Japanese sector performance statistics show clearly those that have it - and those that do not.
At the top of the Japanese sector with a very impressive performance is MIM Japan Performance which managed an increase of just over 30 per cent. Also very deserving of a slap on the back are the managers of the Schroder Japanese Smaller Companies unit trust, which was just pipped in the tables by the MIM fund. Schroder managed a 29.3 per cent increase.
However, there is a long gap after these two sparkling performances to the third-placed Japanese unit trust - Gartmore Japan, which managed a 13.2



Toache Remnant: One successful team in the field

per cent increase, more than 15 per cent behind Schroder Japanese Smaller Companies.
In fact, slightly more than half of the Japanese unit trusts actually produced a loss for investors on an offer-to-bid basis. Fidelity, once viewed as having something of a Midas touch when it came to Japanese investment has both its Japanese unit trusts firmly in the bottom 10 of the sector and well below break-even level.
Stephen Barber, manager of the top-performing MIM Japan Performance, is keen to point out that the success of the fund is very much the result of team effort.
The success of the unit is largely accounted for by the MIM team anticipating problem areas, such as the glut in the semiconductor industry and protectionism noises from the United States, and recognizing the excessive domestic liquidity as well as knowing what to do about it.
"A conventional western-style approach was no good - you had to look at the market through Japanese eyes," says Mr Barber. "In effect, you had to identify the sort of oppor-

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TOP 10 UNIT TRUSTS 1985 - By SECTOR *Current value of £100 invested from January 1 to December 15, 1985

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|-------|--------------------------------|-------|
| Continued from previous page | Commodity and Energy | £ | Atlanta Investment Trust | 107.1 |
| Abbey American Growth | 112.9 | 88.7 | Oppenheimer Pacific | 103.6 |
| Gam North America | 112.0 | 89.3 | Gilt and Fixed Interest Income | 111.2 |
| S&P United States Growth | 111.5 | 89.2 | Target Preference Share | 108.7 |
| Gartmore American | 111.5 | 88.6 | Arbutnot Preference Share | 107.8 |
| Far East | 108.0 | 88.5 | Neistat Gilt & Fix Int | 107.6 |
| Oppenheimer Pacific Grit | 128.1 | 88.3 | Tyndall Preference | 107.6 |
| Dunedin Far East | 110.7 | 88.3 | MLA Gilt | 106.4 |
| Britannia Hong Kong Perfm | 109.3 | 84.9 | Rowan High Interest | 105.3 |
| Hambros Jap & Far East | 108.0 | 83.6 | Schwartz Fixed Interest | 105.2 |
| Gartmore Far Eastern | 108.0 | 82.3 | Key Fixed Interest | 105.4 |
| F&C Far Eastern | 104.9 | 82.3 | Proflit Convert & Gilt | 104.5 |
| Equitable Far Eastern | 102.1 | 81.1 | Hill Samuel Gilt & Fi Inc | 104.3 |
| Manulife Far East | 102.2 | 83.2 | Gilt and Fixed Interest Growth | 103.3 |
| Rowan Far East | 101.7 | 83.0 | Abbey Capital Reserve | 103.3 |
| Sun Alliance Far East | 101.1 | 82.1 | Whittingdale Short D Gilt | 103.7 |
| Japan | 130.5 | 82.1 | Britannia Growth | 103.0 |
| Mim Japan Performance | 129.3 | 80.6 | Manulife Gilt & Fix Int | 102.6 |
| Schroder Japanese Smir Cos | 129.3 | 80.3 | Arbutnot Pfls Deposit | 102.2 |
| Gartmore Japan | 111.1 | 78.5 | S&P Gilt & Fix Int Growth | 106.5 |
| Barrington Japan | 111.1 | 77.4 | Rowan Fixed Interest | 106.5 |
| County Bank Japan Growth | 108.8 | 77.1 | Mercury Gilt | 105.8 |
| Govt Japan Growth | 106.8 | 77.1 | Allied Dunbar Gilt Growth | 105.8 |
| IG Japan | 106.7 | 77.1 | County Bank Gilt Strategy | 105.5 |
| Stewart Ivory Japan | 104.4 | 75.8 | Mixed Income | 120.0 |
| M&G Japan Smaller Cos | 104.4 | 125.7 | Royal London High Income | 118.5 |
| Barrington Japan & Gen | 104.4 | 123.9 | Proflit Extra Income | 115.8 |
| International | 147.0 | 119.1 | Holborn High Income | 114.1 |
| Holborn International Growth | 127.8 | 116.8 | Brown Shipley High Income | 113.6 |
| Bishopsgate Progressive | 125.7 | 114.5 | Gartmore High Income | 111.7 |
| Fidelity Managed Internl | 125.7 | 113.8 | Lloyds Bk Extra Income | 111.3 |
| Britannia Internl Leisure | 125.9 | 112.0 | Canlife Income | 110.6 |
| Gam Sterling & Internl | 123.7 | 110.5 | Oppenheimer High Income | 110.5 |
| Bishopsgate International | 123.6 | 110.5 | S&P Income | 110.5 |
| Perpetual Growth | 122.1 | 110.7 | County Bank Extra Income | 110.5 |
| Oppenheimer Internl Grit | 119.4 | 109.0 | | |
| Canadian & Foreign Internl | 118.7 | 109.0 | | |
| TR Global Technology | 116.8 | 108.6 | | |

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General Information
Contract notes will be issued by return. Certificates will be issued approximately 4 weeks later. After 17th January 1986 the daily prices and yield will be published in leading national newspapers. Managers: Scimitar Asset Management Limited.
Prize: The Royal Bank of Scotland plc.
Charges: An initial charge of 5% is included in the Offer Price of the units, thereafter 1% per annum (+VAT) of the Fund's value, will be deducted from the Trust's income. The Trust deed allows for a maximum charge of 2% per annum. The managers will give unit holders at least three months' written notice of any change.
Scheme: Units may be sold back on any business day at the bid price ruling on receipt of instructions. A cheque for payment will normally be sent within 7 days of receipt of a redemption certificate.
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LAUNCH DISCOUNT
We wish to invest £ (minimum investment £500) in the Scimitar Global Growth Trust income/accumulation units* at the launch price of 25p per unit, which will include a bonus of 1% extra units for the launch period, which runs from 28th December 1985 until 17th January 1986.
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In the case of joint applicants, all must sign and attach names and addresses separately.
For details of the Scimitar Share Exchange Scheme, please tick: ☐
*Units as appropriate. Holders of income units will receive twice yearly payments. Holders of accumulation units will have their income reinvested. If no unit preference is indicated, accumulation units will automatically be issued.

SCIMITAR HAS THE EDGE

Scimitar Asset Management Limited
Standard Chartered

FAMILY MONEY 4

Take care if you leave the winter behind

It is around this time of year that many people with time to spare go away on holiday to escape the traditional bleak English winter. It is an admirable idea, if you have the time and the money, but a word of warning comes from Geoffrey Salmon, of loss assessors Salmon Adams Hilton Ltd. Mr Salmon points out that many household insurance policies stipulate that absences from the home of more than 30 days must be notified to the insurers. When you go away for more than 30 days without notifying the insurers, you may find that if you have to make a claim on your return - say, for a burglary or a flood - the insurers can, with legal justification, refuse to pay.

So notify your insurers - or your insurance broker if you deal through him when taking out the policy - on any occasion where you think it likely that you are going to be away for this length of time. If in doubt - if, for instance you are planning a 28-day break - still notify. You may be delayed, or deliberately prolong your stay, and without notification this could prove an expensive extension.

School for cash

If you feel you don't know much about money as you'd like to, financial planners Murray Noble will be running a series of free evening workshops in London early next year. Three of the workshops, described by the company as informal "educational evenings", are proposed for January and February on pensions, investments and Business Expansion Schemes.

More card cover

Barclaycard announced recently that people using its card to book travel would



receive automatic accident insurance cover for themselves and members of the immediate family. This week, Lloyds Bank has launched a similar travel accident scheme for Lloyds Access cardholders. The arrangement with Royal Insurance covers up to £20,000 insurance for trips at home or abroad, business or pleasure, long-stay or short-stay. Like the Barclaycard offer, it even covers commuting if a season ticket is purchased with the card. The main exclusions are racing, war and flying when you pilot yourself.

For full details contact Customer Enquiries, Lloyds Bank Access, Access House, 200 Priory Crescent, Southampton, SO9 7BB (Southdown 338366).

Right to a rebate

What happens if you want to pay off a hire purchase agreement early? You should be entitled to a rebate - but the full answer can be found in a guide, *Early Settlement Rebates*, prepared by the Finance Houses Association, trading standards departments and other consumer bodies.

The hobby hoarders

Some 2.5 million of us collect stamps and another two million hoard coins,

according to Mintel research. Mintel says: "There are 7.5 million collectors in the UK who aspire to make money from their investments and the total value of all their collections is between £3,500 million and 4,000 million. About one in six households contains at least one collector. Collectors are, says Mintel, more likely to be male than female, and most likely to be under 25.

Don't go short

If you are concerned about exceeding your credit card limit while away on holiday, you might make use of the travel vouchers, issued by a range of travel agents, through Barclaycard. The vouchers enable customers to pre-pay hotel, car rental and other travel bills in an estimated 100,000 outlets throughout the world. Agencies which have agreed to issue the vouchers include Plofords, Co-op Travel, Ian Allen Travel and Althams.

Prices steady

House prices may be soaring in central London but, according to the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, the number of houses coming on to the market has continued to prevent any marked increase in prices. "Of the 265 agents surveyed in England and Wales, 64 per cent reported no increase in prices during the period under review", says the RICS. "Generally speaking, there has been less activity in the higher price bracket, although there are exceptions to this."

Going for gold

Gold bugs are going to grow a little faster in 1986 but then again they may not according to Mark Wellesley-Wood, partner at stockbrokers Greaveson Grant Co. Writing in the firm's *Gold Update* magazine, he says monetary policy is now favourable to the metal and demand is rising again. As for next year, this is going to be neither bull, nor bear, but transitional. At least 1985, according to

Mr Wellesley-Wood, has seen off the bull market in gold. "The market has developed a healthy base, albeit with a few uncertainties over factors such as the oil price still lurking in the wings," he says.

First time in

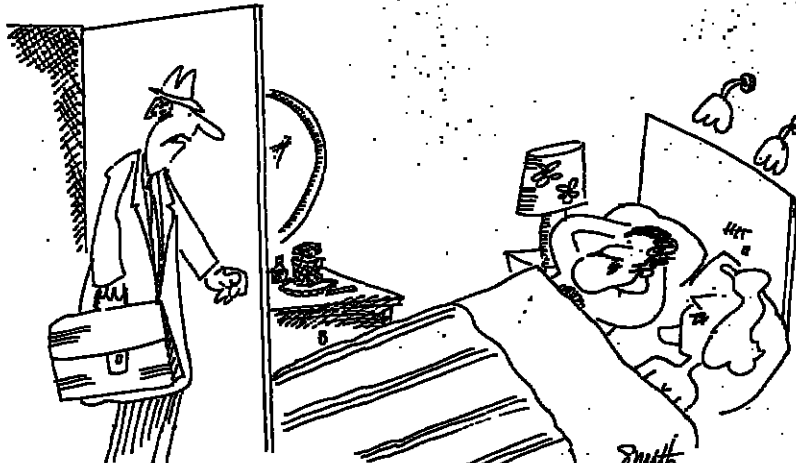
Scimitar Asset Management kicks off its first unit trust today. The Scimitar Global Growth Trust is aiming for capital growth through an international portfolio of holdings. The minimum investment is £500 and there is a 1 per cent bonus allocation of units for those investors purchasing units before January 17. For further details contact Scimitar Asset Management Ltd, 33-35 Gracechurch Street, London EC3. (01-623 8711).

Direct drivers

The Royal Bank of Scotland is well pleased with its Direct Line method of

quoting and providing motor insurance cover over the telephone, having signed up 18,000 willing customers in three months. "A unique low-cost insurance package" is how Direct Line Insurance is described. It will provide instant and free quotations over the telephone - and instant cover if you want it. You pay by credit card or direct debit. You can ring in any time between 8 am and 8 pm weekdays and 9 am and 2 pm on Saturdays. It is certainly worth seeing if Direct Line can provide a more competitive quotation than the motor insurance you have already got. But remember it is not simply the premium that determines whether a particular policy is competitive. You have to look at the scope of the cover, size of the excess, perils - such as fire legal expenses insurance cover, etc - to be in a position to decide. With Direct Line you are dealing with one underwriter - so you are not necessarily getting the best deal available.

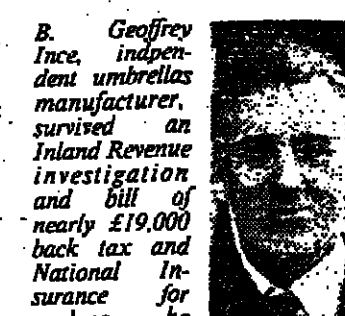
Details: Direct Line Insurance (01-686 2468).



Marjorie - whatever next? Have you seen the state of the pound today?

How did you fare in the big money quiz?

1. Chinese Ceramics. The index is based on a value of 100 at September 1975, and Chinese Ceramics had a value of 648, compared with English Furniture at 509 in our report of September 21.
2. Minimum age for taking out a home annuity or reversion is 65, although some companies are now making moves to reduce the limit to nearer 60. We will, of course, keep you posted.
30. In this year's autumn package for students, Barclays, Midland and TSB made low-cost loans available to students leaving education to take up their first jobs.
4. The remainder of Britoil's shares were offered at 185p.
5. A bank sweep is an arrangement with your bank manager to move surplus funds from a current account to an interest-bearing deposit account whenever appropriate, without specific instructions from you for every transaction.
6. CRT is Composite Rate Tax, charged at 25 per cent regardless of a taxpayer's individual liability and not reclaimable. Banks, building societies and other deposit-taking institutions started deducting it from interest paid to depositors from April 6, 1985. Some institutions will not be subject to CRT until as late as April 1986 - local authority town hall bonds, for instance.
7. Muting?
8. Peckham Building Society.
9. Occupational Pensions Advisory Service, a charity set up 2½ years ago to help those at odds with their pension schemes, chaired by Margaret Grainger.
10. The Banking Ombudsman is Ian Edwards-Jones, and he starts to deal with complaints from the public on January 1, 1986.
11. Lloyds.
4. Major Charles Fenwick, who owns the Chelsea Genie Centre, believes that any money spent on having gardens professionally improved will be recouped when the house is sold.
12. The Quilter-Goodison share shop in Dabenhams, Oxford Street.
13. Nothing. As the law stands at present any income over £2,205 (excluding local authority further education grants) is taxable.
14. One year.
15. £111.
16. Yes. Goods must be of merchantable quality, as described, and fit for their purpose - whether or not bought in a sale.
17. Vanguard Special Situations - £100 invested on an offer-to-offer basis, net income reinvested, over 10 months, £140.70 (ninth); over one year, £158.70 (seventh); and two years, £177.50 (first). Tables published November 16, 1985.
33. The Arkwright fund, run by stockbrokers Henry Cooke Lamsden, was the best-performing stockbroker unit trust, coming 11th overall out of a total of 613 funds.
34. The TSB privatization has been postponed following a ruling in the Scottish courts that the depositors already owned it.
35. The top-performing unit trust over the first six months of this year was FS Balanced Growth (value of £100 invested on an offer-to-offer basis, net income reinvested, at June 1 was £141.30).



Geoffrey Salmon, of loss assessors Salmon Adams Hilton Ltd.

Independent umbrella manufacturer, survived an Inland Revenue investigation and a bill of nearly £19,000 back tax and National Insurance for workers he claimed were self-employed.

Investment trusts on average £129.5 as opposed to unit trusts £118.1 (after tax on offer, net income reinvested).

19. National Association of Dealers and Investment Managers - a watchdog organization.

20. BAE shares closed on May 10, 1985, 96.8 million shares were offered.

21. Property companies were excluded from tax relief under BES in the spring Budget 1985.

22. Jennifer Pinder, with the backing of the Equal Opportunities Commission, took Friends' Provident to court, claiming discrimination because of a 50 per cent loading on her insurance premiums simply because she is a woman. She lost.

23. Prudential, Sun Alliance and Eagle Star all said they would quote for non-fee insurance.

24. To become a Lloyd's name you must have a £100,000 in readily realizable assets.

25. The Money '85 exhibition took place at Olympia in September - the first personal investment exhibition of its kind in this country.

26. Stock-on-Tees in Cleveland had the largest rates rise - 14.91 per cent.

27. Both. Some leaseholders of houses can, if their ground rent is above a certain limit, buy their homes. Leaseholders of flats cannot.

28. Stamp duty is not payable on house purchase when (i) the price is less than £50,000, and (ii) when ownership of the house is transferred as part of a divorce settlement.

29. Joe Bradshaw is the DIY conveyancing campaigner.

30. Appropriately for the time of year, the 10 or 15 of Man coins is the "Loser".

31. The Ombudsman dealt with 3,477 inquiries from the public.

32. State Earnings-Related Pension. The recently published White Paper on social security reform aims at halving the cost by the year 2033 in the hope of encouraging the spread of personal and occupational pensions.

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That's the end of this year's Family Money Quiz. You should certainly have been able to answer most of the questions. More next year.

C. Judith Chalmers and Neil Macfarlane are both non-executive directors of Chelsea Restaurants, a BES company sponsored by Johnson Fry.

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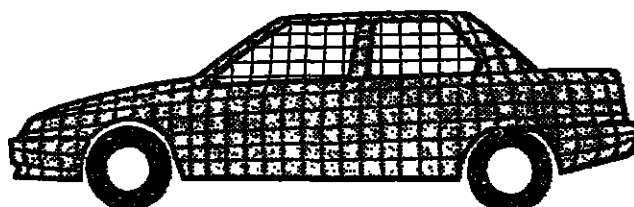
research department (one of the largest in the City).

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Please tick the box if you do NOT wish to have income re-invested in additional units. ☐

Your cheque should be made payable to Prudential Unit Trust Managers Limited.

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If the units are to be registered in more than one name, please attach the other unitholder(s) information to this application form.

NOTE: Applications received by 17th January, 1986 will be dealt at

the fixed price of 50p. After that date units will be available at the daily quoted offer prices appearing in the national press. This offer may close earlier at the Managers' discretion.

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General information. Buying and selling units. Contract notes are normally sent out by return of post, certificates will follow within 28 days. Units can be sold at the prevailing bid price by simply sending the required certificate to the Managers. Payment will normally be made within 3 days. After the close of the usual offer, unit prices and bids will be calculated daily and shown in the Financial Times and other national newspapers. Return ratios are published quarterly. Interim dividends and rates are available, on request. There is an initial charge of 3% of the offer price of units. An annual management charge of 1% (- VAT) of the value of the fund is deducted from gross income and allowed for in the estimated gross yield. The Trust Deed permits a maximum annual charge of 2% subject to the Managers providing 3 months notice. Income: The annual estimated gross yield is 12.5%. Income is distributed 1/3 by the end of March and 2/3 by the end of September and the first distribution will be 21st September, 1986. The Trust is Authorized Overseas. Managers: Prudential Unit Trust Managers Limited, Registered in England, No 179216. Member of Unit Trust Association of Trustees. Barclays Bank Trust Company Ltd. This offer is not open to residents of Eire.

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FAMILY MONEY/5

Millions more for the taxman

INLAND REVENUE

Enormous sums of extra cash have been flowing almost unnoticed into the taxman's coffers for the past five years. In that time, the amount called from investigations into cases of suspected undeclared income has increased by 234 per cent, from £111 million to £371 million.

This has not come about because of a sudden surge of diligence on the part of tax inspectors. It is the result of a conscious decision to channel Inland Revenue staff to investigation work.

The number of investigations has increased by 75 per cent, so the Revenue is no doubt pleased with the financial return on its efforts.

In response to this revenue drive, Mike Reader, a former tax inspector, is leading a national tax investigation unit recently set up by accountants Spicer and Pegler to help the growing number of people coming under Revenue scrutiny.

"If an employer is thinking of giving someone any kind of extra payment or benefit, he should make sure he knows the tax implication", says Mr Reader.

"Large companies are more inclined to try to do things by the book, but decisions taken at quite a low level can have catastrophic cumulative effects."

"We had a big client who had been making lunch payments of £1.50 to workers occupied away from the depot. They got a £7 million tax demand, because the Revenue argued the workers weren't really using the money for lunch and backdated the tax claim six years, which is their standard time period for a 'material underpayment'."

"We demonstrated the tax demand was excessive and in the end we settled for about £1 million, but you can guarantee the decision to make £1.50 lunch allowances was not taken at board level."

"Another client who ran a shop wanted to give one of his assistants an extra £10 a week to get a taxi home after late opening. In the end the only way we could get the Revenue to give it a dispensation was to agree that the employer would make direct payment to the taxi firm."

Self-employed people should also beware of coming under the spotlight of one of the investigation agencies - both the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise have several

different branches doing the work. Mr Reader says: "Anyone who hasn't really got self-employed status, because they are just working for one firm, are under its control and use its equipment, for example, should know they are taking a risk."

If you do find yourself the subject of an investigation Mr Reader gives the following advice: "Don't give an impression of guilt, don't feel you have to answer questions on the spot. You are entitled to ask the investigating officials to put their questions in writing, but

PAYE produces the biggest single yield

don't be obstructive because that will certainly influence whether you are treated leniently or harshly at the end of the day."

The Revenue is entitled to demand repayment of 100 per cent of the tax lost, plus interest from the date it became due, and a fine equal to the amount of lost tax. However, the penalty is subject to abatement by several factors:

- Disclosure when challenged by the Revenue - up to 20 per cent
- Voluntary disclosure before being challenged - up to 30 per cent
- Co-operation with the investigation - up to 40 per cent
- Size and gravity of the non-payment - up to 40 per cent



Mr Reader, keen to extol the services of his company, where all the staff are former tax or Customs and Excise officials, says:

"It helps that we can talk in their language, and we know what sort of benefits are given to their staff. For instance, they get a 30p-a-mile petrol allowance so they can hardly argue that is excessive for another organization."

"Also, Customs and Excise staff park all over the tarmac at Heathrow where anyone else would have to pay."

But why is the Revenue suddenly clamping down on tax evaders?

A former tax inspector explained: "It used to be considered very *infra dig* to soil one's hands with the grubby mechanisms of PAYE."

"It was left to inexperienced staff, while tax inspectors grappled with thorny legal arguments which wouldn't produce much extra income even if the Revenue won. Now they've woken up to the fact that PAYE produces the biggest single yield."

Before 1977 the Revenue examined every set of accounts, but since then they have been more selective. About 95 per cent of accounts submitted are accepted on face value. The rest are picked out for closer examination.

There is plenty of scope for error in dealing with tax. The PAYE form, on which the employer makes a return of all

the expenses, payments and benefits provided to directors and other higher-paid employees, is still notoriously complicated, even though it was simplified this year.

With the change in positions for employers' National Insurance contributions, there may also be a trend back towards offering perks in lieu of salary. This could reverse the situation which has prevailed for several years and could further complicate the employer's tax position.

In the 1970s when personal tax rates were high, the incidence of perks was widespread. The present Government has made much of its aim to make cash more attractive than payments in kind, and the reductions in personal taxation have gone some way towards achieving that.

But since the removal of the upper limit for employers' National Insurance contributions from this October, many firms will probably prefer to give someone a holiday, for instance, and bear the tax, rather than pay tax and extra National Insurance on a £1,000 bonus.

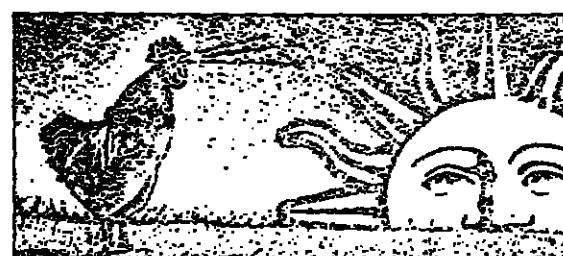
Incentive prizes, free parking or "expenses" payments which are considered part of the salary in certain fields, are the ones which are likely to cause problems and give rise to an investigation.

Lois Rogers

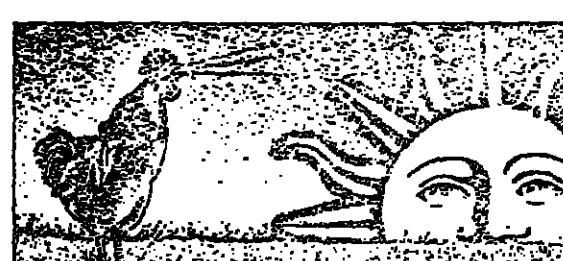
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FAMILY MONEY 17

Guardian angels to the BES investment sector

BUSINESS EXPANSION

For every mad rush of stars trying to make a quick buck on a new issue there will be a happy set of underwriters.

The underwriters pledge themselves to buy a certain amount of shares in return for a fee. If the launch goes well, then they get their fee while not a penny has left the bank.

Only when the issue is underwritten are the underwriters called on to fulfil their pledge and buy shares.

They will have to buy a proportion of their pledge in line with the success of the issue - so if 80 per cent of the shares are bought and 20 per cent are left with the underwriters, every underwriter will have to put up the money for 20 per cent of his pledge.

In the context of the Stock Exchange all this is rather big time. But a new breed of underwriters is emerging to underpin Business Expansion Schemes. Charles Fry, of Johnson Fry, was the first to see the potential for underwriting BES issues.

If an issue fails to make its minimum subscription and the issue has to be abandoned investors may find that they are too late to find a home for their £40,000 of BES investment

which qualifies for such handsome tax treatment - fully deductible at the top rate of tax.

But if the issue is underwritten, investors know their BES commitment is safe. In addition, the sponsors know that the issue will not be abandoned for failing to meet its minimum, which could be an expensive business.

Johnson Fry itself underwrites the issues for a fee of 3.5 per cent and subcontracts the underwriting to individuals for a fee of 2.5 per cent.

Mr Fry said: "We have to get the money in within 40 days of the issue. So we close it after 32

'Underwriting is not for the small man'

days which leaves us time to get the money in from the underwriters. But at the end of the week Johnson Fry has to put up the money, so that's why we get our 1 per cent."

So far four BES issues have been underwritten and all have reached their minimum subscription, so the underwriters have pocketed their fee without having to put up any money.

One man underwrote £100,000 and Johnson Fry had to take up bank references on him. But usually people under-

write for three to four times their normal investment.

The minimum underwriting is £10,000. "That means in practice that the maximum liability is £5,000", said Mr Fry. "But I want people to understand what they are getting into. It's not for the small man."

As would-be investors in an issue make natural underwriters, Johnson Fry will reduce its underwriting commitment in line with its investment. So if someone invested £5,000 in an issue and also underwrote it for £10,000, and there was a 60 per cent call, he would be asked to stump up only £1,000 (£5,000 minus £5,000).

If you think an issue looks like a good buy then it is wise to invest directly as well as underwriting in case you are right and the issue is a success!

In January Johnson Fry will be looking for £5.5 million to underwrite four BES issues - £1 million for a London hotel, £1.2 million for a chain of pubs in the M25 belt, £1.2 million for a rehabilitation centre and nursing home and £2 million for a company which is buying the right to hand-build a well-known car in Nottingham.

"Most people will do all of them", said Mr Fry. If you put £10,000 in every one you get a fee of £1,000. At the worst, says Mr Fry, two might fail to get 50



Charles Fry: First to see the potential for underwriting Business Expansion Schemes

per cent so you would be called to put £5,000 in every one and you would still have the £1,000 fee regardless.

Another BES issuing house, Guidehouse, is also underwriting its issues. It offers 3 to 4 per cent to underwriters. "We have just started underwriting as we felt there was an appetite for it", said Michael Jackson, director of corporate finance.

Guidehouse has a marina group which will be seeking an over-the-counter listing in the new year.

The underwriting fees all add to the cost of an issue and make it a less attractive proposition for the investor. But BES issues are attractive only to individ-

uals as their *raison d'être* is the tax incentive which is not available for institutions.

Underwriting fees count as income for tax purposes. At stockbrokers Hoare Govett the minimum for underwriting is about £25,000, and more than

'It is a dangerous area for individuals'

that for large issues. The normal Stock Exchange fee is 1.25 per cent for 30 days then 0.125 per cent per week after that.

The individual would not only have to find the money within 48 hours but would also need the capacity to hold on to

any shares that he was allocated as an underwriter.

"It is a dangerous area for individual", said Leigh Collins of stockbrokers Simon and Coates. Investors should be particularly wary of issuing houses offering large underwriting fees - such as 5 per cent - which may mean that it is easier to get the issue underwritten than to place it even with lower issuing costs.

The moral of the story is: Never underwrite an issue if you do not want the shares.

Vivien Goldsmith

Details: Johnson Fry, Princess House, 36 Jermyn Street, London W1S 1DT (01-434 1416)

YACHTING

Panda's loss tilts Southern Cross into reach of NZ

From John Roberson, Sydney

Though Peter Whipp's Panda has retired from the AWA Sydney-to-Hobart race, the British team still hold a tenuous lead in the Southern Cross Cup series of which this is the last race. Panda, which has such distinguished helmsmen on board as Rodney Pattison and Laurie Smith, was calculated to be winning the race on corrected time in the early stages. After clearing Sydney Heads the fleet had hoisted spinnakers for a tight reach down the New South Wales coast, a point of sailing that suited all three yachts in the British team, particularly Panda.

Shortly before midnight on the first night out the fleet was hit by a southerly change, with 30-knot winds. Although this was not quite as much as the liking of the British yachts, Panda was still sixth with a corrected time of 11h 10m. The second overall, the New Zealand boat, was still in the Southern Cross Cup - at the 6 am radio report yesterday. However, by the second radio report of the day at 3 pm local time, Panda had been forced to retire with what was described as structural damage. No more specific details of the problem were forthcoming.

Late last night Panda was believed to be making for Uladulla on the south New South Wales coast and was expected to reach there at 6 o'clock this morning. Earlier this year Panda won the Tasman sweepstake, a 440-mile race which was generally between 30 and 45 knots.

Panda's retirement has reduced the British lead in the series to 274 points with Highland Fling lying fourth and Cifalene 3. The two remaining British yachts will be lucky to maintain a points advantage with the

two particularly strong New Zealand teams close on their heels. The southerly winds are just what the New Zealanders ordered. Their yachts Mad Max (lying tenth) and Thunderbird (seventh) of the second-placed B team are particularly fast to windward. The New Zealand A team, third in the series, has Exador and Switchblade in fifth and sixth places. The New Zealand teams each have one yacht that has gone well offshore and is badly placed at the moment, but if the wind returns to the north-east, they will get the advantage of it first and could have a fast spinnaker ride to Hobart.

As the fleet started their second night of the race Jack Rooklyn's Maxi, Apollo, was leading into Bass Strait, about two miles ahead of Sid Strait, about two miles ahead of Sid Strait, about two miles ahead of Sid Strait.

Britain last won this series in 1973. The last British winner of the Sydney-to-Hobart race was Edward Heath with Morning Cloud in 1969, the same year another British boat, the finishing line. The only other British winner in this race was John Illingworth with Rani, which won the first race in 1945.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Halifax flattered by blunt Northerners

By Keith Macklin

Although tomorrow's programme of matches is truncated because of holiday rearrangements, there are several vital fixtures. Halifax have a splendid opportunity to make further progress towards the top of the first division, and a big crowd will be at Thrum Hall to see the return derby game with Bradford Northern. Halifax won with a late burst of scoring at Bradford on Boxing Day and after their recent fine performances against Wigan and Leeds they will expect to complete the double over a side still struggling in the relegation belt.

Featherstone Rovers on Boxing Day and had their Australian forward, John Muggleton, sent off, travel to Wigan to face the seemingly irresistible Celtic Warriors. Tudi are still coming to terms with the resignation of their coach, Arthur Bunting, and if their defence does not tighten up, they may suffer another thrashing like the one at St Helens in the John Player Special Trophy, when the Saints rattled up more than 50 points. Wigan will give fitness tests to Ellis, Dowling,

Wane and Stephenson before deciding their team. Goodway is expected to return. Another rearranged fixture sees St Helens, who have suddenly gone off the boil, entertaining Salford, who have the encouragement of having beaten their neighbours and rivals, Swinton, on Boxing Day. In the second division, Fulham travel to Runcorn Highfield, expecting to complete a double. They hammered Highfield at Chiswick 44-2. Fulham's good run of results is lifting them steadily up the table, though they have some way to go before they can threaten the top three. Wakefield Trinity are attempting to get back on the promotion ladder and they are another side looking for a double as they take on Bramley at Belle Vue. Barrow, the second division pace-makers along with Leigh, may find life hard up the Cumbrian coast at Workington. Warrington have signed Kevin Lowe, the Rochdale Hornets reserve hooker, on a two-month loan. Why Rugby Union should make room for BARLA, page 23

CYCLING

Welsh rider is banned for taking drugs

Jason Ford, the young international racing cyclist of Wyvern CC, who was expected to carry Wales' hopes in the next year's Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh, has been banned from competition for two years for using banned drugs.

The Road Time Trials Council, the governing body for the sport of cycle racing against the watch in England and Wales, met on December 19 and considered a report from the Chelsea College in London where tests are carried out to control the use of proscribed substances.

A test was made in the Merseyside wheelers invitation event over 32 miles at Delamere, when Ford finished fifth.

Ford was one of six riders tested in accordance with the RICC regulation 47 which gives the power to specify proscribed substances, conduct tests and impose penalties. The report from Chelsea confirmed the use of an amphetamine and this means an automatic suspension for the first offence with life suspension or a second offence.

The suspension runs until December 19, 1987.

SKI-JUMPING

Nykanen comes back into the Finnish fold

Helsinki, (Reuter) - Finland's world ski jump champion, Matti Nykanen, dropped from the national team earlier this month after what his coach described as a drinking problem, has been reinstated.

An official of the Finnish Ski Federation said he would not face any further disciplinary action. He said the case was considered closed after the Federation received a written account from Nykanen of the circumstances that resulted in his being sent home from Lake Placid at the end of a competition tour of Canada and the United States.

Nykanen was dropped and sent home on December 16 and he will not be in the team competing in the European Ski Jump Week starting in West Germany on Monday. But he will return after that.

Nykanen's temporary omission meant he missed a World Cup ski jumping event in France two days before Christmas. Nykanen hoped he will now concentrate on the World Cup flying contest scheduled for Kulm, Austria, later in the season.

Make the comment open our eyes and take wing

I have never in my life made a New Year resolution and I do not intend starting now. But I would like to do what is much more congenial - make a few resolutions for other people.

For a start, the managers of football teams can stop telling us they have decided they are "going for goals". The result, more often than not, is 1-0, and that from a penalty or a deflection off a post, or even 0-0.

"Going for goals" is fine as a policy if there are goals to show for it. Goalmouth escapes are no substitute. Nor are excuses are no substitute. Nor are excuses are no substitute. Nor are excuses are no substitute.

So much for the collection of 1986, the World Cup. Another is the parade of athletes beforehand, the media men should resolve not to describe it with a well rehearsed sob, as "a moving occasion". I decline to believe it is. I am not except physically. A sixth sense tells me it cannot be. Therefore, no imaginary jumps in the throat, please.

Besides, parade implies discipline, and there is little of that about a huge out-of-step parade round a stadium. I rather like real parades and military music, having had experience of both, so I resent hatched and hatched imitations. In rugby I would like to see more photographs of backs running with

SIDELINES

Gordon Allan

the ball and fewer of forwards swarming it like baby elephants in the mud. It is, I know, a game with all too many earthbound moments, but it can and does soar. Photographs of scrums and rucks are as dull as photographs of policemen shaking hands at airports.

I will also be looking, during the next 12 months, for "quoties" worth remembering. Cards had perhaps the best idea - he adapted or invented them, putting into the mouths of his cricketers, in the name of the higher truth, the ideal things they ought to have said, in the way they ought to have said them, rather than the things they did say.

Scott Symon, a notoriously uncommunicative manager of Rangers many years ago, was once rung up from Edinburgh on the morning of a European match and asked about the weather at Ibrox. "No comment," he said. It would be reasonable to expect better than that in 1986, but not to expect words comparable with those of the surferboarder Chris Hines who, in 1983, hymned his sport thus:

"The wave has come to you across a thousand miles of ocean, and so one will ever ride it except you. Surf it, and it's gone. You have a relationship with a wave, a complete involvement with it, and then it's broken. You know those insects that mate once and die? It's like that."

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RACING

Tom Sharp should cut a dash in testing conditions

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

After all the recent rain the premium will be on stamina today at Newbury where the going is reported to be heavy. So having won over 2½ miles on soft ground at Cheltenham at the beginning of this month Tom Sharp should certainly be running on when others have cried enough and he is napped to win the L'Oréal Handicap Hurdle.

In this sort of ground any pound more than 11st to carry can be an anchor. So in this instance I doubt either Southern Air or Chrysos giving my selection 11lb and 9lb, respectively. The fly in the ointment could turn out to be the bottom weight, Highland Clipper, with Richard Dunwoody in the saddle.

The young jockey's confidence will have had a timely boost yesterday at Kempton where he rode four winners. Highland Clipper was a fluent winner over today's course and distance last winter, but unlike Tom Sharp he lacks the advantage of a previous race this season.

Ten Plus, another who is guaranteed to last the distance of two miles, four furlongs and

120 yards is taken to continue his winning way in the Challow Hurdle. I first admired his resolution this season when he won at Warwick on November 28. Next time it was at Cheltenham eight days later when he put 10 lengths between himself and his nearest pursuer on the run-in.

13 lengths behind at the end was Singletoe, who has done the form some good by winning at Folkestone in the meantime. But on a pound worse terms Pam Sly's big horse has a hard task today, even though those two races will have undoubtedly brought him on.

Twelve months ago the Weyhill Handicap Chase was won by Sommelier carrying 10st 10lb. Today the same horse returns to the fray for the same race but with an additional stone on his back. That means he will be meeting Port Askaig, who finished fifth behind him last year, 10 lengths adrift, on 19lb worse terms. So, with Tim Forster's horses now running so well, Port Askaig must go close following that better run at Warwick where he finished third behind Roadster (a winner at Kempton yesterday) and Co Member, who finished second at Wincanton on Boxing Day.

Nevertheless, I still just prefer King's Bishop, who shaped so well after a long absence at Newbury earlier this month when he finished fourth behind Contradict, Catch Phrase and Royscript, who then won easily at Wolverhampton two days ago. To be beaten only five lengths that day was anything but a disgrace.

By the time that King's Bishop goes to post, Ulan Bator his stable companion, could easily have paved the way for a Fred Winter double by winning the Elcot Park Novices' Chase.

Trojan Prince, who missed the last race at Kempton yesterday, will wait for the Wickham Novices' Hurdle, is an interesting debutant with good form on the Flat but now I just prefer El Galileo, who also won twice on the Flat but in

mud. More recently he finished third behind That's Your Lot over hurdles at Lingfield Park only to be disqualified simply because his rider failed to weigh in.

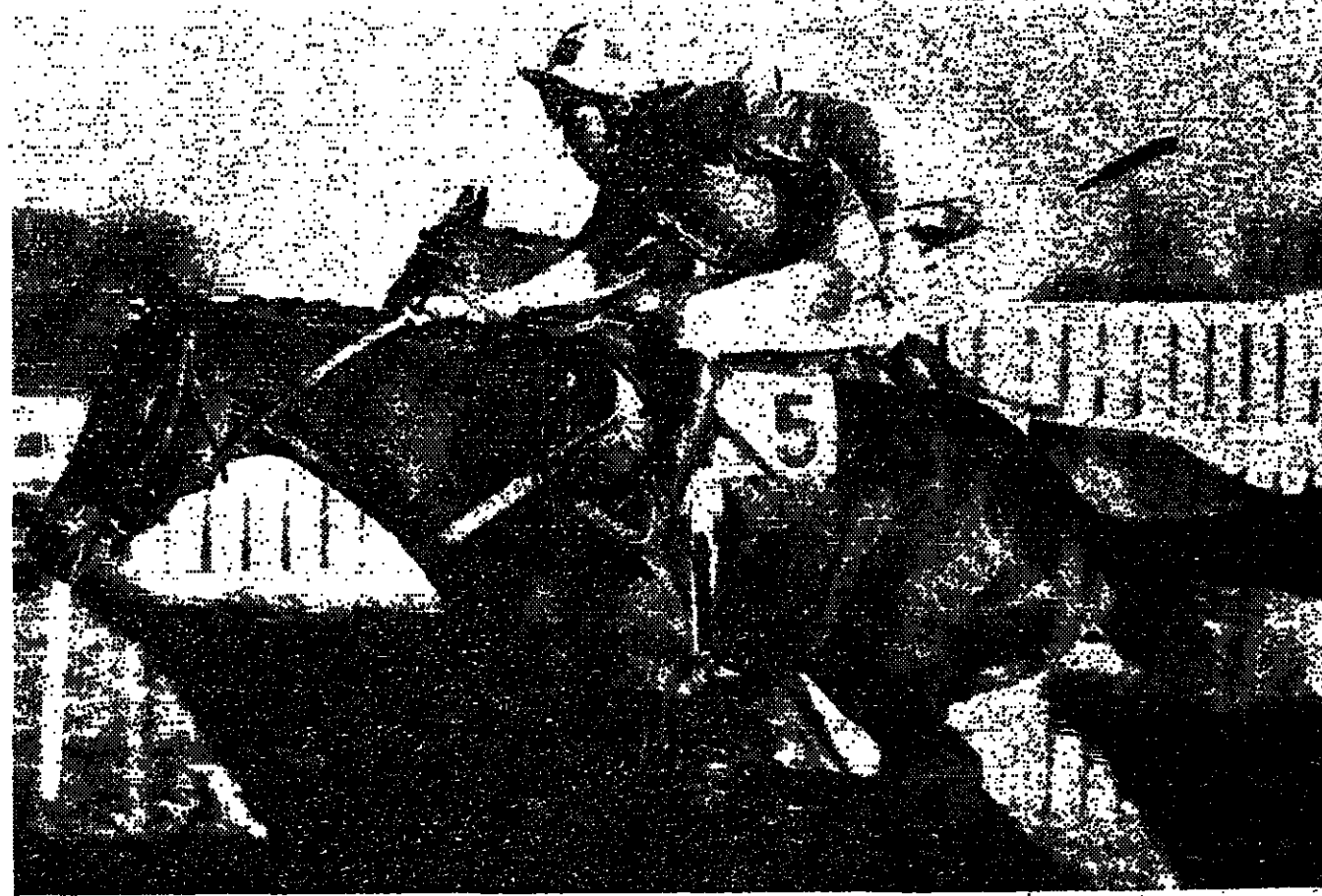
At Ayr I expect Hardy Lad to maintain his recent Haydock superiority over Sam Wrekin in the Melleray's Belle Challenge Cup, even on 4lb worse terms.

At Warwick the conditions of the two mile chase are tailor-made to suit a horse of the class of Little Bay, so no wonder he has been sent there, from Penrith by Gordon Richards. Acarine, a late defector from the field for the King George VI Steeplechase at Kempton on Boxing Day, turns out for the Edward Courage Cup, but without obvious chance in my opinion of beating Observe who staged such an encouraging comeback after injury at Lingfield when he was runner-up to Maori Venture.

Having gone for Tom Sharp to win the big race at Newbury, I feel duty bound to take Gold Tycoon to win the Tiny Tim Handicap Hurdle. From John Searling's in-form stable, Gold Tycoon ran with a lot of promise in the race that Tom Sharp won at Cheltenham. Also last season he proved that he could cope with the most testing ground. But with Merry Jane, Lady Ascar and the new runner, Timur's Double lurking near the foot of his handicap today his task is far from easy.

Frost threatens two of today's meetings, particularly Newcastle where there will be a 9.00 am inspection. Prospects are not bright and the clerk of the course, John Smith said: "We have frost in the ground and it would have been tough and wet, but we've just got to hope for some warmer weather, which sadly is not forecast."

Bill McHugh, Ayr's clerk of the course, will hold a precautionary inspection at 7.30 am. "A moderate frost is forecast and the course was fit for racing today," he said.



Arbitrage (Peter Scudamore) leads Hot Handed over the last on his way to victory at Kempton (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Dunwoody ends lean spell with four-timer

By Michael Seely

Richard Dunwoody sent the holiday punters home happy by riding the last four winners at Kempton yesterday. Without a solitary success to his credit since December 6 the 21-year-old jockey completed a 237-4 four-timer on Roadster, Von Trappe, Tagboat and Sylvan Joker.

Von Trappe, the horse on which Dunwoody gained his first Cheltenham Festival success in the Joe Coral Golden Hurdle final last March, gave the rider the 100th victory of his career in the £10,000 Falmouth Novices Chase. He has been a professional for the past two seasons and it was as an amateur rider that Dunwoody first hit the headlines with a four-timer at Hereford on March 3, 1984.

Von Trappe was left with a simple task after Fudge Delight and Arctic Stream had fallen at the 9th and 14th fences, respectively. However, the 13-8 favourite is an animal who has to be restrained until the last fence, and Dunwoody did not take the lead until the second jump from home. Sprinting effortlessly clear, Von Trappe beat Goldspun by 21 lengths with

Edenspring finishing a length away third.

The Embassy final at Ascot on January 11 is the immediate target for yesterday's fluent winner. "Michael says that Von Trappe is potentially the best horse he has ever trained," said Oliver, the trainer's wife said. "He thinks he's got more class than Master H and West Tip."

Mrs Oliver's lucky run had certainly brought her more fortune than she could have dreamed of. "Official Dress escaped from the course after falling at the first," she said. "We had an alarming experience chasing him through the city centre in a horse box. We finally caught him on the Bridgnorth Road."

The stable has no immediate plan for West Tip, who ran so disappointingly behind Rm and Slip in the Welsh National at the 11th fence last Saturday. "With hindsight the race probably came a bit soon after Ascot," Mrs Oliver continued. "Both the Gold Cup and Grand National are possible long-term targets, but he's got to have a rest first."

Roadster, Dunwoody's first winner just got the better of an

exciting finish with Hazy Sunset for the Ladbrooke Handicap Chase after the 3-1 favourite and apparently blundered his chance away at the third fence from home.

Formerly with Peter Bailey, the nine-year-old is now trained by his owner-bred, Colla West, at the same yard. This sporting farmer rode 30 point-to-point winners in his younger days. He was unable to go racing on Thursday as he is master of the Old Berkshire Hunt and was attending their Boxing Day meet.

Dunwoody completed his afternoon of glory by giving Philip Mitchell, the cheerful Epsom trainer, a double with Tagboat and Sylvan Joker, after the latter came close on the run-in and it was amazing that no stewards' inquiry was announced.

Jennie Pat's amateur rider, Jerry Quinn, objected to Tagboat's win before leaving my ground going to and after the last, but after a short delay this was overruled and the placings remained unaltered.

Glen Lochan was awarded for fully 10 minutes and received the biggest cheer of the afternoon when rising to his feet, but his rider, Colla Hawkins had to give up his rides in the last two races.

Aintree in two seasons' time. Bought for £800 Irish points at Ballbridge, Tom Bob has taken the first step to glory by winning a point-to-point in the United States.

Neville Crump enjoyed mixed luck on his 75th birthday at Wetherby yesterday, landing the St John's Ambulance Novices' Chase with Regington before seeing Glen Cobban take a crashing fall when holding every chance at the last flight of the Kamesborough Handicap Hurdle, won by Mick's Star.

This proved a race full of incident, with Phil Tuck driving the 11-4 favourite, Mick's Star, to a headlong success over the long-chase leader, Jessica Post. The principal came close on the run-in and it was amazing that no stewards' inquiry was announced.

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Fred Winter: chance of Newbury double

NEWBURY

[Television: 1.0, 1.30, 2.30]

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Saturday

Weekend television and radio programmes
Edited by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

Sunday

BBC 1

- 8.30 The Family News (r). 8.35 Children of Fire Mountain (r).
9.00 Saturday Superstore, managed by Mike Read. Caricatures and music. The guests include the Young Caricaturists and the London Community Gospel Choir.
10.50 Film: *Hamlet* and *Hamlet* (1984) starring Lillian Gish and Timothy Bottoms. Sentimental tale about the adventures of a young man and his elderly mistress. Directed by Roy Watts.
12.15 Grandstand introduced by Desmond Lynam. The line-up is: 12.20 Football Focus with Bob Wilson; 12.55, 1.20, 1.55 and 2.25 Racing from Newbury; 1.10 News summary and weather; 1.15 musical review; 1.40, 2.10 and 2.50 News from Donnington; 3.00 Gymnastics from Brussels; 3.50 Half time scores and reports; 4.00 Volleyball from Bath; France v Sweden; 4.40 Final score.
5.05 News with Jan Leeming. Weather: 5.15 Sport/Regional news.
5.20 The Frankie Howerd Show. Howerd with guests. The Great Spookshow, Slade and Brian Marshall.
5.30 Film: *Shipwrecked* (1978). Animated version of the adventures of a warren of rabbits. With the voices of John Hurt, Richard Briers, Kenneth Cope, Roy Kinnear, Zeno Motta, Denholm Elliott, Harry Andrews, Michael Hordern and Ralph Richardson. Directed by Michael Rosen (Ceebe).
7.20 Line and Duet's *Laughing* Show. The first of a new series starring comedy impressionists Les Dennis and Quentin Goe. Their guest is Roy Walker.
7.55 Film: *Death on the Nile* (1978) starring Peter Ustinov as Hercule Poirot. Agatha Christie's thriller about a universally disliked heiress who is murdered on her honeymoon cruise. Directed by John Gillingham (Ceebe).
10.10 News and sport. With Jan Leeming.
10.25 Barry Norman's *Guide to American Soap*. Mr Norman leaves no stone unturned in his search for the secrets of Dynasty and Dallas; meets Larry Hagman, Linda Gray and James Farentino, as well as ex-President Ford's son Stephen, who stars in the Young and the Restless, one of the daytime series that are topped up by 45 million viewers every weekday.
11.15 Film: *The Wrong Man* (1956) starring James Cagney, Vera Miles and Anthony Quayle. Drama, based on fact, about a case of mistaken identity. Manny Balestrero, a bass player, makes a routine call to an insurance firm and is identified by the staff as the man responsible for a hold-up. He is arrested on circumstantial evidence and this seems to be backed up by a handwriting expert who claims that the thief's handwriting is the same as Manny's. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock.
1.00 Weather.

tv-am

- 6.55 Good Morning Britain presented by Mike Morris. Weather at 6.55; news at 7.00; regional report at 7.05; and sport at 7.15.
7.30 The Wide Awake Club for children includes news and weather at 8.25.
9.25 Knock Your Block Off. With pupils from Willow High and Linsden High Schools and Morecambe High Schools. Presented by Steve Blackwell. 10.05 Disney at Christmas. Cartoon.
10.15 Film: *Treasures of the Snow* (1980) starring Paul Dean. Adventure, set in the Swiss Alps, about a runaway boy who finds peace in the forests and friendship with an old woodcutter. Directed by Mike Pritchard.
12.05 News with Trevor McDonald. Saint and Gravel. Ian and Jimmy remember the sporting highlights of the year. 12.30 Weather from Battersea Wood.
1.20 Airwolf. Stringfellow Hawke goes to the assistance of a Vietnam War veteran who is being tortured by a former Vietnamese warlord.
2.15 International Date. The MFI Open, introduced by Dickie Davies from the Rainbow Suite, Kensington.
4.15 Benson. The governor's man is told by his girlfriend that she is accepting a dinner date with another man.
4.45 Results service.
5.00 News.
5.05 Disney at Christmas. Cartoon.
5.15 Cops. More comedy impressions from a host of mimics headed by Bobby Davro.
5.45 Blind Date. Young people question one another out of sight of each other to find who will be compatible with whom on a blind date.
6.30 Film: *Bravo Billy* (1980) starring Clint Eastwood and Sondra Locke. Eastwood plays the owner of a Wild West Show who has trouble keeping assistants for his own shooting and knife throwing act. But is seems help is at hand when he meets an apparently abandoned and lonely young woman. Directed by Clint Eastwood (Oracle).
8.45 News with Trevor McDonald.
9.00 Blue Monday. The story of a cab driver with a passion for rock and roll who becomes the quarry of the Mob, the police and a psychopathic Glasgowian when stolen money is suddenly left in his vehicle. Starring Tim Curry, Debbie Bishop and Billy Connolly (r) (Oracle).
10.35 The Second Best of Spitting Image. Highlights of the award-winning series.
11.35 LWT News headlines followed by Timespace: The Block. Science fiction thriller starring John Taylor.
12.05 When the Music's Over. Rock stars of the past three decades including Chuck Berry, Elvis Presley and Otis Redding.
12.55 Night Thoughts with Alec McCowen and Paul Mils-Kington. Ends at 1.05.



Robert Morley and Maurice Evans as Gilbert and Sullivan (Channel 4, 3.05 pm). And a puppet version Paul Daniels (TV, 10.35 pm).

BBC 2

- 9.00 Ceebe.
1.00 Choir of the Year 1984. Highlights of the competition, introduced by Brian Kay.
1.45 What's Up, Chuck. Animator Chuck Jones discusses his ultimate chase movie, *Fear and Worman*, and waxes lyrical about his favourite character, Popeye.
2.10 Film: *Under Capricorn* (1949) starring Ingrid Bergman, Joseph Cotten, Michael Wilding and Margaret Leighton. Thriller, set in 1831 New South Wales, about the English son of the state governor who is a guest in the household of a wealthy businessman who was once a convict. The businessman's wife is an alcoholic and appears to live in fear of her housekeeper. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock.
4.05 Film: *Macbeth* (1948) starring Orson Welles and Jeanette Nolan. An imaginative version of Shakespeare's tragedy, made by Welles in three weeks.
5.50 Great Western Journey. A salute to the Great Western Railway which was born 150 years ago (r).
7.00 News and sport. With Jan Leeming.
7.20 Yeoman of the Guard. A documentary about the Queen's bodyguard on the 500th anniversary of its existence. Written and narrated by Ian Wootton.
8.45 Persepolis. By William Jones. A documentary play. At Welsh with English subtitles, about three leading members of the Welsh Nationalist Party who, in 1936, were responsible for setting fire to buildings and equipment on the RAF camp at Penarth near Pwllheli. The programme follows the three men through their arrest and trial. Starring Owen Gurney, Dylan Roberts and John Phillips.
10.25 Film: *The Taking of Pelham 123* (1974) starring Walter Matthau, Robert Shaw and Martin Balsam. Thriller about a gang of armed men who hijack a New York subway train. Their demand is one million dollars to be delivered within an hour. One passenger will be murdered for each minute the ransom money is late. Main plays: police lieutenant who has the job of dealing with the gang. Directed by Joseph Sargent. Ends at 12.10.

CHANNEL 4

- 11.00 Christ Stopped at Eboli. Part three of the four-episode adaptation of Francesco Rosi's film released in 1979, set in fascist Italy in 1935. Starring Gian Maria Volonté and Irene Pappas.
11.50 Film: *Terminus* (1960). John Schlesinger's documentary about a day in the life of Waterloo Station.
12.30 Channel Four Racing from Ayr and Newcastle. The 12.45, 1.15 and 1.45 races from Ayr and the 1.00, 1.30 and 2.00 races from Newcastle.
2.10 Film: *The London Nobody Knows* (1987). James Mason at the helm of a documentary based on the best-selling book by Geoffrey Fletcher about London's hidden places. Directed by Norman Cohen.
3.05 Film: *The Story of Gilbert and Sullivan* (1953) starring Robert Morley and Maurice Evans. Lavish biography of the stormy partnership between the composer and the librettist. Directed by Sidney Gilliat.
5.05 Breakdown (r) (Oracle).
6.00 The Puppet Man. The final programme of the series starring Roy Hudd as Walter Wilkinson, an author and puppeteer who wrote about his period in 1925 when he was touring the West Country.
6.40 News summary and weather followed by A Frame With David. Steve Davis is joined by Jamie Bennett and Derek Jameson (Oracle).
7.15 Film: *The Far Country* (1955) starring James Stewart, Ruth Roman, Corinne Calvet and Walter Brennan. Western adventure about a cattleman and his partner who drive a herd of cattle from Wyoming to the Dawson gold fields. Directed by Anthony Mann.
9.00 Film: *Don Giovanni* (1979) starring Ruggero Raimondi, Kiri Te Kanawa, Eda Moser and Teresa Berganza. Mozart's dramatic opera about the legendary lover who attempts to seduce the Countess's daughter only to be challenged to a duel by her outraged father. Directed by Joseph Losey.
12.00 Emma Thompson: Up For Grabs. Comedy sketches featuring one of the most successful of the recent crop of Footlights graduates. With Daniel Massey, Mark Kingston, Phyllida Law and Stephen Moore. Ends at 1.00.

BBC 1

- 8.55 Play School, presented by Wayne Jackson. 9.15 Articles of Faith. Charles Elliott examines the Church's interpretations of the Kingdom of God. 9.30 This is the Day. A simple service on the theme of Reclaiming Christ, from a viewer's home in Oxford.
10.00 Asian Magazine. A musical extravaganza celebrating the new year. 10.30 See Hear. Magazine programme for the hearing impaired. 10.55 The Pink Panther Show (r).
11.10 Film: *The Alamo* (1960) starring John Wayne as Davy Crockett leading 187 brave Texans who battled for 13 days at the Alamo in order to free their state from the Mexicans. With Richard Widmark, Laurence Harvey and Richard Boone. Produced and directed by John Wayne.
1.55 News headlines with John Leeming. Weather. 2.00 EastEnders. A compilation of the week's episodes (Ceebe).
3.00 Film: *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (1938) starring Errol Flynn, Olivia de Havilland, Basil Rathbone, Claude Rains and Alan Hale. Swashbuckling adventures with Flynn having a whale of a time as the legendary Sherwood Forest outlaw. Directed by Michael Curtiz.
4.40 The Christmas Rock Gospel Show, presented by Sae A. Walsh and Alvin Sargent. With Paul Jones and his wife, Robert Hendley, Lon Santon, Russ Taff and the London Community Gospel Choir.
5.15 Earthshaker. A fantasy tale made by the BBC's Natural History Unit and starring Max Wall as several different characters as he and nine-year-old Lynne Raftery are transported by hot air balloon, yellow submarine, space car and a time machine to the Star of Bethlehem. Their journey takes them through forests, beaches, under the earth and beneath the sea high into the air and finally to an idyllic valley inhabited by angelic children.
5.55 Oliver Twist. The final episode and the police close in on Bill Sikes, wanted for the murder of Nancy. Starring Eric Porter, Frank Middlemass and Michael Attenborough (Ceebe).
6.25 News with Jan Leeming. Weather.
6.35 Songs of Praise from Trafalgar Square where supporters of Christian Aid and the Catholic Fund for Overseas Development are singing carols in order to raise funds for the starving in East Africa (Ceebe).
7.15 Film: *Gandhi* (1982) starring Ben Kingsley in the title role. Sir Richard Attenborough's portrait of the life of the great Indian leader beginning with Gandhi's experiences of apartheid in South Africa as a young advocate in 1893. His struggle to change the system by peaceful means was the start of a lifetime of peaceful protest culminating in the successful withdrawal of the British Raj from India. This spectacular production won eight Oscars including one for Best Picture (Ceebe).
8.40 News with Jan Leeming. Weather.
8.55 Film: *Gandhi* continued.
10.30 Review of the Year 1985. John Tuso looks back at the headline stories of the year.
11.45 Weather.

TV-am

- 6.55 Good Morning Britain begins with a 'Thought for a Sunday': 'Awake? For the young at 7.25; the What's News quiz at 7.50; Jan Bennett's pick of the week at 8.10; news headlines at 8.27.
8.30 The Sunday Programme presented by David Frost. His guests include Dennis Norden, Joanna Lumley, Derek Jameson and Joe Ashton.
9.25 Wake up London with the Vicious Boys. 9.35 The Marmalade Show. Cartoons.
10.00 Morning Worship. Family Eucharist from St Mary's Parish Church, Woking, near Cardiff. 11.00 Talking On. Julian Reynolds talks to Dorothy Maudsley about how her husband's modelling career has progressed since she was last on the programme; Beryl Bainbridge judges the Gunning Poetry competition; and the Persuaders of 1984 and 1985 are interviewed.
11.20 Blind Faith. Two blind people take a sailing course organized by the Royal Yachting Association. Seamus Murphy. 12.15 Film: *The Great Muppet Caper* (1981). The Muppets, in London on the trail of jewel thieves, are joined by Diana Rigg and her wife, Robert Hardy. Peter Ustinov and Peter Falk. Directed by Jim Henson.
2.00 LWT News headlines followed by Limestone: The Gracie Island. Magnus Magnusson sits beneath the surface of the Northumbrian fishing and farming village.
2.30 Film: *Starlight One - The Flight That Didn't Return* (1982). A made-for-television drama about a plane on a record-breaking trans-Pacific flight that is sent hurtling into space by a mystery explosion. Starring Lee Majors, Hal Linden, Lauren Hutton and Ray Milland. Directed by Jerry Jameson.
4.30 Golden Pennies. Drama serial set in 19th century Australian goldfields.
5.00 Bullseye. Darts and general knowledge game.
5.30 Legend on Ice - A True Gift of Christmas. Ice skating interpretation of myths and legends concerning Christmas. With Robin Cousins and Tony Cranston.
6.30 News.
6.40 Highway. Sir Harry Secombe visits Strabane.
7.15 Sixty Tiny Fingers. Michael Aspel presents a program about the Weirton sculptures of Mersesville.
8.15 92 Grosvenor Street, starring Hal Holbrook and David McCallum. Second World War drama about two teams of espionage agents sent to Nazi-occupied Europe to uncover a plot to overthrow the German government.
10.10 Lyrics by Tim Rice. A showcase of songs written by Tim Rice.
11.45 LWT News headlines followed by Graceland. A tour of Elvis Presley's home in the company of his widow, Priscilla.
12.45 Night Thoughts from Baroness Phillips.

Ben Kingsley and Ian Charleson in the film *Gandhi* (BBC 1, 7.15 pm). And David Essex and friend: Lyrics by Tim Rice (TV, 10.15 pm).

BBC 2

- 9.00 Ceebe.
11.40 Chameleon. The Wonder Horse in *The Deer Hunter* (r).
12.05 Windmill. Chris Dee dips into the archives to find film on food. With clips from programmes featuring Philip Hartman, Zana Skornar, Fanny Craddock, and guest nutritionist Magnus Pyke.
1.05 States of Mind. Dr Jonathan Miller in conversation with Clifford Geertz, Professor of Social Science at Princeton (r).
1.55 Film: *The Lady from Shanghai* (1948) starring Rita Hayworth and Orson Welles. Michael O'Hara, an English sailor, becomes involved in murder when he meets with the yacht and in particular Elsa Bannister and her crippled husband, Arthur. Directed by Orson Welles.
3.20 Aladdin and the 40 Thieves. A traditional pantomime (r).
4.20 Under Sail. The final programme of the series features the yachtsmen of the River Crouch in Essex who sail Royal Corinthian One Designs.
4.40 Film: *Bridge on the River Kwai* (1957) starring Alec Guinness, William Holden and Jack Hawkins. Second World War drama about Allied servicemen in a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp in Burma and their task of building a railway bridge for their captors. Directed by David Lean.
7.15 The Royal Ballet in *The Nutcracker*. Lesley Collier and Anthony Dowell star in this production by Peter Wright of the Royal Ballet's Christmas, fairy tale, With Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, conducted by Gennadi Rozhdestvensky.
8.55 The Natural World: The Plant Hunters. Three stories, from Israel, Nepal and the United States, about plant hunters' efforts to save unknown plants that may be of considerable benefit to mankind.
9.40 Comrades. This seventh in the series of 12 film portraits of today's Russians spotlights Mikhail Gorbachev and his son Yura who live and work in the Yalta forest.
10.20 Submarines at War. As a preview to next week's showing of *The Boat*, the classic submarine film about life under sea, British submariners recall their experiences (r).
10.10 Lyrics by Tim Rice. A showcase of songs written by Tim Rice.
11.45 LWT News headlines followed by Graceland. A tour of Elvis Presley's home in the company of his widow, Priscilla.
12.45 Night Thoughts from Baroness Phillips.

CHANNEL 4

- 11.00 Christ Stopped at Eboli. The fourth and final part of the adaptation of Francesco Rosi's film about a young Italian doctor who is banished to a remote mountain village because of his opposition to fascism. Starring Gian Maria Volonté and Irene Pappas.
11.55 The World of Women's Golf. Highlights of the British, European and United States women's Opens.
12.40 Chivalry of Heaven. The story of David Wayne's controversial sculpture, *Risen Christ* (r).
1.45 Film: *Folly to Be Wise* (1952) starring Alastair Sim as a chaplain and newly-appointed entertainment officer of a large army camp who decides to organize a brains trust with a panel of local worthies under his chairmanship. Directed by Frank Launder.
3.25 Film: *Friday the Thirteenth* (1933) starring Sonnie Hale, Jessie Matthews, Evelyn Williams and Ralph Richardson. Several different people are murdered when their bus crashes on the way to the theatre. The bus is driven by a large army camp who decides to organize a brains trust with a panel of local worthies under his chairmanship. Directed by Frank Launder.
5.00 Citizen 2000. The third programme in the series of four focuses on eight children who spend their day cared for outside their home and family (Oracle).
6.00 American Football. Dallas Cowboys versus the San Francisco 49ers.
7.15 News summary and weather followed by Dabaville. A documentary about the small community of Maharashtra in India where people deliver more than 100,000 letters boxes a day to their customers in Bombay.
8.30 Astonishing Doss. Itzhak Perlman and Pinchas Zukerman in which the two virtuosi play a violin and a viola. Among the works they play are Capricci for Two Violins by Vivaldi and the Passacaglia for Violin and Violoncello by Paganini.
9.30 The Mysteries: The Passion. The second play of the award-winning trilogy adapted from the medieval English mystery plays by Tony Harrison.
11.15 Film: *Christmas in July* (1940) starring Dick Powell and Ellen Drew. A young officer is tricked into believing that he has won a slogan competition. Directed by Preston Sturges. Ends at 12.30.

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 106.3kHz/285m; 108.9kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693kHz/435m; 90.9kHz/330m; Radio 3: 121.5kHz/247m; VHF 90.92-5; Radio 4: 200kHz/150m; VHF 92-96; LBC 1152kHz/261m; VHF 97.3; Capital: 154.8kHz/194m; VHF 95.8; BBC Radio London 145.8kHz/206m; VHF 94.9; World Service MF 648kHz/483m.

Radio 4

- On long wave. Also VHF stereo.
5.55 Shipping. 6.00 News briefing: 6.10 Shipping. 6.30 News: Farming Today; 6.50 Prayer for the Day; 8.55 Weather; Travel. 9.00 News; 7.10 Today's Papers; 7.15 Kin Year Farm; 7.30 News; 7.45 Interview; 7.45 In Perspective (Rosemary Hargrave); 7.50 Down to Earth (Mark Gillman and Alan Titchmarsh); 7.55 Weather; Travel. 8.00 News; 8.10 Today's Papers; 8.15 Kin Year Farm; 8.30 News; 8.45 Interview; 8.45 In Perspective (Rosemary Hargrave); 8.50 Down to Earth (Mark Gillman and Alan Titchmarsh); 8.55 Weather; Travel. 9.00 News; 9.10 Today's Papers; 9.15 Kin Year Farm; 9.30 News; 9.45 Interview; 9.45 In Perspective (Rosemary Hargrave); 9.50 Down to Earth (Mark Gillman and Alan Titchmarsh); 9.55 Weather; Travel. 10.00 News; 10.10 Today's Papers; 10.15 Kin Year Farm; 10.30 News; 10.45 Interview; 10.45 In Perspective (Rosemary Hargrave); 10.50 Down to Earth (Mark Gillman and Alan Titchmarsh); 10.55 Weather; Travel. 11.00 News; 11.10 Today's Papers; 11.15 Kin Year Farm; 11.30 News; 11.45 Interview; 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Letter from Eastern Europe

Where mothers are a reluctant breed

birth rate and the birth rate in the sea coast. Contraceptives are banned in Romania.

In spite of this Polish rise, the birth rate in Romania is alarmingly low. Indeed, most of the Soviet bloc countries are facing the same problem.

Unless the women of Cluj and Dressler, and even Kiev, can be talked, bribed orajoined into multiple pregnancies, Communist countries will face an acute shortage of manpower, draining their industries and their armies.

Poland has the opposite problem. Unless the authorities can convince the devoutly Catholic Poles to permit their families there will be an intolerable strain on housing, schools and hospitals.

Communism, as every Young Pioneer knows, runs according to plan. Five-year, annual, monthly or weekly targets dominate existence, yet the most important plan of all family planning, seems to elude the authorities' grasp.

The Romanian leader, Mr Nicolae Ceausescu, says, however, a man who will take where a ban on contraceptives, but abortions also are outlawed for women with fewer than four children.

An exception is made for rape victims and in cases of a serious illness, but even then doctors are nervous of terminating pregnancies. Abortionists face hefty prison sentences.

The Politburo, dominated by Mr Ceausescu and his wife, Elena has decided that these sanctions are not enough. It has boosted a monthly fine on childless families from about 10 per cent of the average wage (3,000 lei, or £185) to about 15 per cent.

Doctors have been given the specific responsibility of investigating and reporting on the reasons for miscarriages. The authorities suspect that some gynaecologists are inducing miscarriages in return for bribes. Checks on women

In 1983 Romania recorded 14.3 births for every 1,000 of the population, one of the lowest rates in its post-war history. The rate has improved slightly.

Other Communist countries in a similar situation, such as East Germany, are trying to solve the problem with generous maternity leave and child allowances.

Academic studies in Eastern Europe, however, seem to favour the theory of a certain Professor Leibenstein, whose premise is that children complete with the desire for consumer durables.

So child allowances, however generous, cannot be the decisive factor in a relatively well-stocked economy. In East Germany, with spin doctors there is more incentive for women to carry on working.

Mrs Krystyna Solecka, from the village of Szczepniki in southern Poland, shows that the reverse can also be true. In times of economic crisis it may be best to stay at home and breed.

She is aged 44 and last year gave birth to her 21st child. The child benefits amount to a small fortune by Polish standards certainly more than she can earn in her job as a kitchen help and she has been on maternity leave for almost 20 years.

An extreme example, of course. A more typical attitude is expressed by a woman in her twenties with a third child on the way. "I don't have any hopes that my children will be well off. I can't really give them much, but I think it will be easier for us to live in bigger groups, among people we know and trust."

That sounds rather like the political and personal philosophy of the Solidarity leader, Mr Lech Walesa. His wife, Danuta, is expecting her eighth child.

Roger Boyes

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December 28, 1985-January 3, 1986

SATURDAY

A weekly guide to leisure, entertainment and the arts

Luxury farming for the fat of the land

For those feeling overweight and irritable after the Christmas round of food, drink and socializing, Christine Toomey offers a guide to five health farms that pummel and pamper guests back into shape at a price

Some are little more than residential beauty parlours taking half a dozen guests while others are stately homes of baronial elegance. Unashamed hedonists wallow in Jacuzzis and guzzle home-made cakes while such occasional extras as seaweed baths and salt rubs sound almost outrageously. The rich, sleeping in pampered luxury, can easily pay as much for a single night (over £200) as a more budget-conscious client would expect to be charged for an entire week.

The British health farm of 1985 is all things to all men - and women. And just about the only thing it is not is that shrine to weight-watching, self-deprivation which exemplified its origins in the 1960s.

Today a typical batch of visitors would certainly include business men trying to avoid their first or second coronary, younger executives worried about the first signs of business lunch belly, women of all ages fighting the effects of advancing years and a fair sprinkling of celebrities recuperating from the strain of public exposure.

For most, the shedding of a pound or two is a welcome bonus but not to be confused with the principal purpose of switching off from the tension of routine daily life. Others readily admit to seeking nothing more than good company and a pleasant chat.

One regular visitor, describing his motives, said: "The benefits as much in eliminating the negatives - in my case smoking, drinking and business entertaining - as in any positive approach to health through diet or exercise."

Many others, however, are attracted by the wide range of sporting facilities that are available at most health farms and the prospect of a spell of intensive physical activity.

If the hopes and aims of any two visitors differ, they cannot do so nearly so much as the facilities, degree of comfort and life-style of the establishments themselves. The health farm has become an almost indefinable institution.

New arrivals are usually given a consultation with a nurse, doctor or dietician who, after checking blood pressure, pulse rate and medical history, might recommend a particular diet of course of treatment. There the similarity ends.

While one forbids alcohol but serves home-made cakes, another allows alcohol in moderation but issues biscuits on prescription only. Some impose strict rules - "a certain amount of self-denial and self-discipline is essential" says one - and at others almost anything goes. Standards vary considerably and, falling neither within the compass of the private health sector nor, directly, the hotel and catering industry, there are few statutory regulations governing the way health farms are run.

Rules and regimes aside, however, the real fun lies in what they do to you - a panoply of steaming, soaking, kneading and pummeling that exudes deliciously pampered relaxation.

The cost is high but the price can often be justified. Health farms are heavy on skilled staff and equipment and light on

other sources of profit like bar sales, cigarettes and à la carte menus. And whatever the price, they can easily become addictive. Most who go once return.

But Dr Alan Maryon-Davis, chief medical officer with the Health Education Council, warns that health farms might lure some into a false sense of security about their physical well-being.

"The fitness tests carried out in some establishments might show no abnormality and encourage people to think that they can carry on high-pressure lives with no ill effect."

"It would be foolish to think one could undo the damage caused by an unhealthy life-style during an annual two-week spell in a health farm," he said.

"Psychologically it could be of great therapeutic value, more so than a usual holiday with the hassle that sometimes entails. But, physically, the treatments offered in some health farms are on a more controversial territory."

Inadequate supervision of exercise classes and the unknown long-term effects of artificial suntanning treatments particularly concerned him.

The British Dietetic Association advised against the very low calorie diets and short-term fasts recommended by some health farms.

"Diets of less than 800 calories a day should be extremely carefully supervised," said a spokesman. "If protein intake is reduced below this level the body can no longer perform the function of maintaining and protecting lean muscle tissue, which can then be easily damaged."

"Most weight lost over a short period of time is caused by a reduction in the body's water content and is quickly put back on."

More beneficial than a temporary diet, he said, would be professional instruction on long-term healthy eating.

CHAMPNEYS

This one won't disappoint those for whom health farms conjure a Club Méditerranée image. It has the air of a lively international house party. The outdoor Jacuzzi, open all year round, is the social hub, where I was approached within hours of arriving and asked by one middle-aged business man if I wanted "company - just for one night".

Not only for the gregarious, Champneys is ideal for those who enjoy their food with excellent and interesting meals. Snacks, however, are not allowed. When I asked for afternoon biscuits, I was told they were issued on prescription only.

Appropriately for an establishment taken over recently by Guinness, it is one of the few to allow alcohol - half a bottle of wine per person on an evening.

Throughout the day a non-alcoholic bar (installed three years ago according to barman Christopher to "break up the boredom between meals") serves fruit juice mixes.

Founded 60 years ago, Champneys was Britain's first health farm and occupies a

former Rothschild mansion. The clientele includes many Arabs during the summer months and, in recent years, Lulu, Gary Glitter, Bianca Jagger, John Cleese and Lesley-Anne Down.

VIPs are provided with a private treatment room. There is a craft centre ("to satisfy suppressed artistic longings") and a packed activities programme sensibly warning guests not to attempt to try everything.

Evening talks included a rather tedious one on Positive Thinking, accompanied by the sounds of rumbling stomachs. Treatments include seaweed baths and salt rubs. Accommodation varies from the style of an Arabian palace to rather run-down and cramped budget cabins with peeling wallpaper and broken fixtures.

FOREST MERE

Here, the atmosphere of a nursing home pervades. Quietly spoken staff in white clinical uniforms ushered me, rather unnervingly, into a "treatment room".

The clinical atmosphere can, depending on your own condition, have a comforting or disquieting effect. It was certainly rather unnerving to hear patients talking about when they were to be "released".

The regime is considered disciplined. "Patients are expected to avoid business ties and social engagements as far as possible", warns the brochure. "To limit car driving, stop or reduce smoking and refrain from alcohol altogether."

The clinical atmosphere can, depending on your own condition, have a comforting or disquieting effect. It was certainly rather unnerving to hear patients talking about when they were to be "released".

Forest Mere Liphook, Hants (0428 722051). Capacity: approx 80. Prices: from £47.14 to £114.28 per person per night.

GRAYSHOTT HALL

While elsewhere people turn up for their evening meal in track suits, the guests at this ivy-clad mansion house change for dinner.

It was the most formal and sophisticated of the five. The boutique is full of expensive



Grayshott Hall, Grayshott, near Hindhead, Surrey (042873 4331). Capacity: approx 100. Price: from £55 to £152.50 per night.

INGLEWOOD

A car was waiting for me at the station piloted by an enthusiastic Chelsea FC supporter with a gold stud earring. He engagingly informed me that Inglewood looked "just like Colditz".

Indeed the impressive grey stone stately home set in magnificent formal gardens still has the slightly daunting air of the boys' public school it once was.

Some guests rattle around in spacious, high-ceilinged rooms and suites in the main building, while others are crammed into budget rooms in which they can reach the basin and open the door while sitting on the bed.

"Diet is fundamental to the Inglewood way of life", according to its manifesto. "We aim to coax you away from the bad eating habits of modern life."

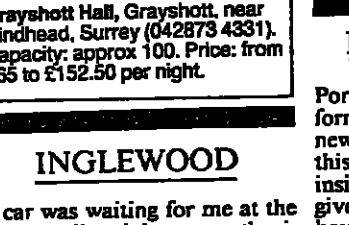
Slimmers can, if they wish, be put on a lemon and water fast for 48 hours on arrival, followed by a light diet of fruit, soup, salad and cottage cheese.

The cost of accommodation includes medical consultations and treatments. I tried a peat

Grayshott Hall, Grayshott, near Hindhead, Surrey (042873 4331). Capacity: approx 100. Price: from £55 to £152.50 per night.

(1000 calories) diets. Non-slimmers have a salad lunch and a three-course dinner. No alcohol is available and fruit cocktails are served in the drawing room before dinner.

The 47 acres of grounds include a nine-hole golf course. Grayshott offers an extensive range of beauty treatments and alternative medicine therapies in a restful, spacious and private environment.



Inglewood, Kintbury, Berks (0488 82022). Capacity: 80 guests. Prices: from budget accommodation at £235 per week to £125 a night for a suite.

RAGDALE HALL

Porters in red and gold uniforms and white gloves whisk new arrivals from their cars into this turreted edifice. Once inside, extravagant formality gives way to a pleasant country house party atmosphere.

Whereas in the other four places, guests are shown to separate tables, here we all sat together at long tables in the oak panelled dining room.

There is no apartheid for slimmers and everyone is treated to an appetizing set menu. The à la carte menu featured delicious home reared trout and crème suzette. Alcohol is unlimited and chosen from a list which features "organically grown wines."

Ragdale doesn't hold with strict

Ragdale Hall, near Malton, North Yorks (066475 831). Capacity: 75. Prices from £50 to £95 per person per night.

fasting, which it considers "unnecessary and undesirable."

Room service proved to be rather forgetful (my early morning call was overlooked and my breakfast forgotten). And it wasn't pleasant to be given a facial by beauty staff who leaned over me with heavy colds.

That there were more married couples and fewer single men than in the other four farms made for a pleasant atmosphere and meant it was easier for someone on their own, like me.



Ragdale Hall, near Malton, North Yorks (066475 831). Capacity: 75. Prices from £50 to £95 per person per night.

The indoor swimming pool with its tiled arches and tropical plants is exotic, but activities are limited. There is a nightly video but most guests disappear to bed by nine o'clock.

Ragdale Hall, near Malton, North Yorks (066475 831). Capacity: 75. Prices from £50 to £95 per person per night.

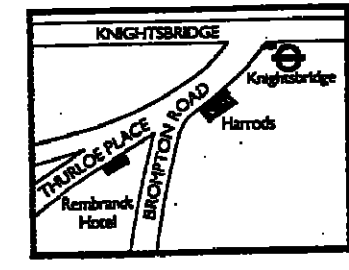


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Edited by Shona Crawford Poole.

TRAVEL

A paddle in Africa

Lions, crocodiles and a shortage of vodka could not deter intrepid canoeist

Rob Neillands. Then he met hippo Henry...

Few images are more exciting or evocative than that of the safari, at least as portrayed on the cinema screen. The bronzed white hunter leads a file of porters over the dry plain, tents are pitched under the spreading acacia trees as the sun goes down over Africa and somewhere, stage left, a lion is hacking away in the bush. Gosh, the romance of it all!

The snag is that modern safaris aren't like that. The accommodation is in comfy lodges, equipped with all mod cons; you dine in a restaurant, take your sundowner in a cocktail bar, and view the game from the security of a minibus. But for the scale of Africa, you might be at Longleaf. Fortunately, our safari down the Zambezi was different - very different.

"Please pay attention", said Tony, our Zimbabwean guide. "If lion or hyena come into camp, wake everyone up, shout, bang pots... that ought to scare them away. On the other hand, if elephant or buffalo come into camp, keep very quiet, lie perfectly still, and they will probably go away."

grin, was an accident looking for somewhere to happen. There was hot competition to share a canoe with Tony.

The Zambezi is one of the great rivers of Africa, running for a thousand miles from Angola to the Indian Ocean, and our five-day canoe trip covered only 60 miles in Zimbabwe, from the foot of the Kariba Dam to the Mana Pools Park, but this was Africa all the way, with wilderness along the banks, lions in the bush, and plenty of hippos in the water. Tony hadn't mentioned the hippos.

Our first day's journey was a mere 14 miles through the Kariba gorge, if rather longer for those of us who could not keep the bow pointed in the right direction. We went through most of the rapids sideways or backwards, paddling frantically to ignore the watchful crocodiles and not think about being eaten. Since

there were other worries, this was easy.

"I hope this water is really as pure as Tony says", I remarked to my partner, scooping up a handful from the river. "So do I", he replied fervently. "I've drunk two mugs of it already." In the next five days we washed, shaved and bathed in the river, while drinking it by the gallon, so if the Lower Zambezi does contain bilharzia, we've probably got it.

The daily routine was to rise at dawn for a quick coffee, and then get in an hour or two's paddling before breakfast, to gain some distance before the wind got up. Secret thoughts of drifting idly along with the current were soon dashed by this relentless headwind. That apart, it was wonderful. The Zambezi is a beautiful river, running blue and silver between green islands and golden sandbanks, with great views to the distant hills. Our able South

Africans were birdwatching to point out the rarer species: the tern-like African skimmers, the green-backed herons, the varied kingfishers, the eagles and, best of all, the brilliant carmine bee-eaters, which nest in vast colonies along the banks, and poured from their holes like flying jewels as we drifted past.

The paddling was not too strenuous, the sun shone, and when the river straightened out and the hippos were absent, we drew the canoes together, hooking our feet over the sides of each other's craft and opened another bottle of wine. Sheer bliss!

These idylls were frequently interrupted by what soon became known as the Daily Frights. Paddling round a small island, we surprised a family of slumbering hippos, which is not a good idea. Hippos may look cuddly at a distance but, surprised close-to, they display frayed nerves and teeth the size of bananas. I have dim recollections of much spray and shouting, of drifting backwards past a crocodile, and widespread confusion. We drew together in midstream for a squadron tremble and resolved to be more careful. It didn't help; hippos still contrived to pop up in inconvenient places.

Leaving ashore for breakfast on day three, two members disappeared into deep holes close to the bank - no joke when there are crocodiles about; their rapid arrival on shore proved that people can walk on water if the motivation is strong enough.

A large crocodile dragged itself reluctantly into the river as we arrived at our final camp, and two elephants put in an appearance ten minutes later. The absence of artillery and tents seemed suddenly acute and a large fire became a priority. Safari beds, once placed at a discreet distance, were now packed together, and there was much crafty jockeying for an inside place. All in all, it was a restless night. Red eyes



Hippo with a mission: Henry's idea of fun was to put the wind up the Zambezi safari team

glinted at us from the river; a hyena screamed, its head off close by; somewhere in the bush someone beat a drum throughout the night, and dawn revealed fresh lion tracks 20 yards from our beds. Worst of all, we had run out of vodka.

Next morning our intrepid band had the group photo, swore undying friendship, and with only a few miles to go, set off for Mana Pools, anticipating a gentle paddle before a big breakfast. We had reckoned without Henry, our final fright.

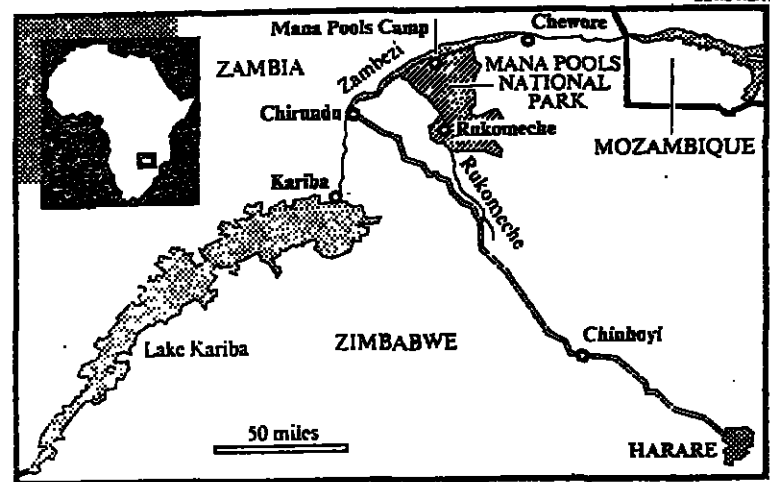
Henry is a hippo with a mission. Most hippos go in for snoring and wallowing, and only want to be left alone, but Henry counts no day complete until he has put the wind up a party of canoeists. We had heard a lot about Henry, but even so he took us by surprise. We were in

the canoes, finishing up the last of the wine, when someone said the dread word "Hippo!" - and there he was on the bank, peering hopefully in our direction. "That's Henry!" shouted Tony. "Make for the shore!"

As we clawed frantically for the far bank, Henry trundled into the water and came after us, pushing up a considerable bow wave, and overhauling us with ease. We dashed to the shore as Henry surfaced nearby with a loud gasp and a toothy grin. I think he does it for a laugh. We crept away downstream, sticking close to the bank, and an hour later splashed ashore at Rukomeche, sun-scorched, insect bitten, in urgent need of hot showers, but very content.

TRAVEL NOTES

This Bee-Eater Canoe Safari is available through Abercrombie and Kent Travel, St James Square House, Holborn Place, London SW1W 8NS (01-730 9600), as an extension to their African Highlife Safari. A six-day canoe safari costs from £235 full board with all equipment provided. The African Highlife Safari costs £1860 for 15 days. Canoeists should take a minimal amount of kit in a small waterproof bag, but a wide-brimmed hat, barrier sunscreen, sunglasses, a sweater, and anti-malaria tablets are essential. Full detailed information on the canoe safari is available from Abercrombie and Kent. Birdwatchers will need fieldglasses of 8 x 30 magnification, and a good fieldguide. Photographers will need at least one long-focus lens of 200mm or more, secured in a waterproof bag. Don't forget a sense of humour.



CHESS

World beater

The tournament at New York in early 1927 was probably the greatest triumph of Capablanca's career. Playing four times each against five of the strongest players in the world, he emerged undefeated, scoring 14 points from 20 games. Most impressive of all is this masterpiece against Spielmann.

White: Capablanca; Black: Spielmann. New York 1927. Queen's Gambit Declined.

1 P-Q4 B-N5 2 N-K3 P-K3 3 P-K4 N-Q2 4 N-K3 KN-Q3 5 B-N5 KN-Q7 6 P-K4 P-K4

The expected reaction, but not the best move since it leaves his pawn weak on the black squares. Black had two better courses open to him: the temporizing 7... Q-K2 and the more aggressive 7... P-B4.

8 P-B4 Q-O 9 P-K3 P-B4 10 B-Q2 P-Q5 11 B-Q2 Q-Q3 12 Q-O P-N4 13 Q-N3 Q-Q3

Superficially considered, simple enough; but in reality a key move which demonstrates on what grand lines Capablanca has planned the whole game. Black's Queen side is rotten to the core and will collapse with amazing rapidity.

14... N-K5

Spielmann proceeds with his plan, blissfully unaware of the

mine about to detonate and destroy his whole game.

15 N-Q4 P-Q4 16 P-Q4 P-Q4 17 P-Q4 P-Q4 18 P-Q4 P-Q4 19 P-Q4 P-Q4 20 P-Q4 P-Q4 21 P-Q4 P-Q4 22 P-Q4 P-Q4 23 P-Q4 P-Q4 24 P-Q4 P-Q4 25 P-Q4 P-Q4 26 P-Q4 P-Q4 27 P-Q4 P-Q4 28 P-Q4 P-Q4 29 P-Q4 P-Q4 30 P-Q4 P-Q4 31 P-Q4 P-Q4 32 P-Q4 P-Q4 33 P-Q4 P-Q4 34 P-Q4 P-Q4 35 P-Q4 P-Q4 36 P-Q4 P-Q4 37 P-Q4 P-Q4 38 P-Q4 P-Q4 39 P-Q4 P-Q4 40 P-Q4 P-Q4 41 P-Q4 P-Q4 42 P-Q4 P-Q4 43 P-Q4 P-Q4 44 P-Q4 P-Q4 45 P-Q4 P-Q4 46 P-Q4 P-Q4 47 P-Q4 P-Q4 48 P-Q4 P-Q4 49 P-Q4 P-Q4 50 P-Q4 P-Q4 51 P-Q4 P-Q4 52 P-Q4 P-Q4 53 P-Q4 P-Q4 54 P-Q4 P-Q4 55 P-Q4 P-Q4 56 P-Q4 P-Q4 57 P-Q4 P-Q4 58 P-Q4 P-Q4 59 P-Q4 P-Q4 60 P-Q4 P-Q4 61 P-Q4 P-Q4 62 P-Q4 P-Q4 63 P-Q4 P-Q4 64 P-Q4 P-Q4 65 P-Q4 P-Q4 66 P-Q4 P-Q4 67 P-Q4 P-Q4 68 P-Q4 P-Q4 69 P-Q4 P-Q4 70 P-Q4 P-Q4 71 P-Q4 P-Q4 72 P-Q4 P-Q4 73 P-Q4 P-Q4 74 P-Q4 P-Q4 75 P-Q4 P-Q4 76 P-Q4 P-Q4 77 P-Q4 P-Q4 78 P-Q4 P-Q4 79 P-Q4 P-Q4 80 P-Q4 P-Q4 81 P-Q4 P-Q4 82 P-Q4 P-Q4 83 P-Q4 P-Q4 84 P-Q4 P-Q4 85 P-Q4 P-Q4 86 P-Q4 P-Q4 87 P-Q4 P-Q4 88 P-Q4 P-Q4 89 P-Q4 P-Q4 90 P-Q4 P-Q4 91 P-Q4 P-Q4 92 P-Q4 P-Q4 93 P-Q4 P-Q4 94 P-Q4 P-Q4 95 P-Q4 P-Q4 96 P-Q4 P-Q4 97 P-Q4 P-Q4 98 P-Q4 P-Q4 99 P-Q4 P-Q4 100 P-Q4 P-Q4

The natural move expecting White's retreat of the Bishop to B4 and so gaining time to unpin the QR by 18... B-N2. However, it fails against White's coming combination, the direct outcome of his logical, purposeful strategy. The more defensive 17... R-N1

loses because of 18 KR-N1 Q-Q4 19 B-B4 R-N3 20 P-K R-P 21 R-R2 R-N1.

18 P-K4

A beautiful nonchalant sacrifice leaving Black no good reply.

19 Q-B5 Q-B5 20 P-K4 P-K4 21 P-K4 P-K4 22 P-K4 P-K4 23 P-K4 P-K4 24 P-K4 P-K4 25 P-K4 P-K4 26 P-K4 P-K4 27 P-K4 P-K4 28 P-K4 P-K4 29 P-K4 P-K4 30 P-K4 P-K4 31 P-K4 P-K4 32 P-K4 P-K4 33 P-K4 P-K4 34 P-K4 P-K4 35 P-K4 P-K4 36 P-K4 P-K4 37 P-K4 P-K4 38 P-K4 P-K4 39 P-K4 P-K4 40 P-K4 P-K4 41 P-K4 P-K4 42 P-K4 P-K4 43 P-K4 P-K4 44 P-K4 P-K4 45 P-K4 P-K4 46 P-K4 P-K4 47 P-K4 P-K4 48 P-K4 P-K4 49 P-K4 P-K4 50 P-K4 P-K4 51 P-K4 P-K4 52 P-K4 P-K4 53 P-K4 P-K4 54 P-K4 P-K4 55 P-K4 P-K4 56 P-K4 P-K4 57 P-K4 P-K4 58 P-K4 P-K4 59 P-K4 P-K4 60 P-K4 P-K4 61 P-K4 P-K4 62 P-K4 P-K4 63 P-K4 P-K4 64 P-K4 P-K4 65 P-K4 P-K4 66 P-K4 P-K4 67 P-K4 P-K4 68 P-K4 P-K4 69 P-K4 P-K4 70 P-K4 P-K4 71 P-K4 P-K4 72 P-K4 P-K4 73 P-K4 P-K4 74 P-K4 P-K4 75 P-K4 P-K4 76 P-K4 P-K4 77 P-K4 P-K4 78 P-K4 P-K4 79 P-K4 P-K4 80 P-K4 P-K4 81 P-K4 P-K4 82 P-K4 P-K4 83 P-K4 P-K4 84 P-K4 P-K4 85 P-K4 P-K4 86 P-K4 P-K4 87 P-K4 P-K4 88 P-K4 P-K4 89 P-K4 P-K4 90 P-K4 P-K4 91 P-K4 P-K4 92 P-K4 P-K4 93 P-K4 P-K4 94 P-K4 P-K4 95 P-K4 P-K4 96 P-K4 P-K4 97 P-K4 P-K4 98 P-K4 P-K4 99 P-K4 P-K4 100 P-K4 P-K4

One of the piquant points of this game is that White can repeatedly offer an exchange of Queens without a piece down.

22 P-K7 B-N6 23 P-K7 B-N6 24 P-K7 B-N6 25 P-K7 B-N6 26 P-K7 B-N6 27 P-K7 B-N6 28 P-K7 B-N6 29 P-K7 B-N6 30 P-K7 B-N6 31 P-K7 B-N6 32 P-K7 B-N6 33 P-K7 B-N6 34 P-K7 B-N6 35 P-K7 B-N6 36 P-K7 B-N6 37 P-K7 B-N6 38 P-K7 B-N6 39 P-K7 B-N6 40 P-K7 B-N6 41 P-K7 B-N6 42 P-K7 B-N6 43 P-K7 B-N6 44 P-K7 B-N6 45 P-K7 B-N6 46 P-K7 B-N6 47 P-K7 B-N6 48 P-K7 B-N6 49 P-K7 B-N6 50 P-K7 B-N6 51 P-K7 B-N6 52 P-K7 B-N6 53 P-K7 B-N6 54 P-K7 B-N6 55 P-K7 B-N6 56 P-K7 B-N6 57 P-K7 B-N6 58 P-K7 B-N6 59 P-K7 B-N6 60 P-K7 B-N6 61 P-K7 B-N6 62 P-K7 B-N6 63 P-K7 B-N6 64 P-K7 B-N6 65 P-K7 B-N6 66 P-K7 B-N6 67 P-K7 B-N6 68 P-K7 B-N6 69 P-K7 B-N6 70 P-K7 B-N6 71 P-K7 B-N6 72 P-K7 B-N6 73 P-K7 B-N6 74 P-K7 B-N6 75 P-K7 B-N6 76 P-K7 B-N6 77 P-K7 B-N6 78 P-K7 B-N6 79 P-K7 B-N6 80 P-K7 B-N6 81 P-K7 B-N6 82 P-K7 B-N6 83 P-K7 B-N6 84 P-K7 B-N6 85 P-K7 B-N6 86 P-K7 B-N6 87 P-K7 B-N6 88 P-K7 B-N6 89 P-K7 B-N6 90 P-K7 B-N6 91 P-K7 B-N6 92 P-K7 B-N6 93 P-K7 B-N6 94 P-K7 B-N6 95 P-K7 B-N6 96 P-K7 B-N6 97 P-K7 B-N6 98 P-K7 B-N6 99 P-K7 B-N6 100 P-K7 B-N6

A last dying kick, but Capablanca's crystal-clear play renders futile any attempt at creating confusion.

22 P-K7 B-N6 23 P-K7 B-N6 24 P-K7 B-N6 25 P-K7 B-N6 26 P-K7 B-N6 27 P-K7 B-N6 28 P-K7 B-N6 29 P-K7 B-N6 30 P-K7 B-N6 31 P-K7 B-N6 32 P-K7 B-N6 33 P-K7 B-N6 34 P-K7 B-N6 35 P-K7 B-N6 36 P-K7 B-N6 37 P-K7 B-N6 38 P-K7 B-N6 39 P-K7 B-N6 40 P-K7 B-N6 41 P-K7 B-N6 42 P-K7 B-N6 43 P-K7 B-N6 44 P-K7 B-N6 45 P-K7 B-N6 46 P-K7 B-N6 47 P-K7 B-N6 48 P-K7 B-N6 49 P-K7 B-N6 50 P-K7 B-N6 51 P-K7 B-N6 52 P-K7 B-N6 53 P-K7 B-N6 54 P-K7 B-N6 55 P-K7 B-N6 56 P-K7 B-N6 57 P-K7 B-N6 58 P-K7 B-N6 59 P-K7 B-N6 60 P-K7 B-N6 61 P-K7 B-N6 62 P-K7 B-N6 63 P-K7 B-N6 64 P-K7 B-N6 65 P-K7 B-N6 66 P-K7 B-N6 67 P-K7 B-N6 68 P-K7 B-N6 69 P-K7 B-N6 70 P-K7 B-N6 71 P-K7 B-N6 72 P-K7 B-N6 73 P-K7 B-N6 74 P-K7 B-N6 75 P-K7 B-N6 76 P-K7 B-N6 77 P-K7 B-N6 78 P-K7 B-N6 79 P-K7 B-N6 80 P-K7 B-N6 81 P-K7 B-N6 82 P-K7 B-N6 83 P-K7 B-N6 84 P-K7 B-N6 85 P-K7 B-N6 86 P-K7 B-N6 87 P-K7 B-N6 88 P-K7 B-N6 89 P-K7 B-N6 90 P-K7 B-N6 91 P-K7 B-N6 92 P-K7 B-N6 93 P-K7 B-N6 94 P-K7 B-N6 95 P-K7 B-N6 96 P-K7 B-N6 97 P-K7 B-N6 98 P-K7 B-N6 99 P-K7 B-N6 100 P-K7 B-N6

Harry Golombek

OUTINGS

Busy start to the new year

Circuses, quizzes, workshops, treasure trails - there's plenty to do, says Judy Froshaug

GUIDED TOURS AND WALKS AT STAYAL: Tours of the award-winning museum which tells the story of the British textile industry. Also special guided walks around the 250-acre country park. Stayal Country Park and Quarry Bank Mill, Stayal, Cheshire (0625 527468). Museum tours today until Fri at 12.30, 2.30 and 3pm; guided walks from notice-board in car park today and tomorrow at 2pm. Adult £2, child £1.30, family tickets £5.30.

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS EXHIBITION: First open selling craft exhibition arranged by Hull City Art Galleries featuring local crafts people. Items displayed and for sale include pots, stained glass, tinware, lamps, hand-painted fabrics, wall hangings. Posterngate Gallery, 6 Posterngate, Kingston-upon-Hull, Humberside (0482 22745). Today and Tues-Jan 4, 10am-5.30pm, free.

TAMARA COCO'S CHRISTMAS CIRCUS: No animals in this circus, but clowns, acrobats, tumblers, trapeze artists and other spectacular acts. Chessington Zoo, South Car Park, Chessington, Surrey (03727 41245). Today-Jan 7, daily at 2.30 and 7.30pm. Adults £2-£5, child £1-£2.50.

THE KENWOOD CHRISTMAS QUIZ: Worksheets and puzzles for children based on the paintings in the house. Also Mr Merlin's Portrait: entertainment about the inventor of musical instrument-maker Joseph Merlin whose portrait, by Thomas Gainsborough, is in the collection. The Iveson Bequest, Kenwood, Hampstead Lane, London NW3 (01-348 1286). Mon, Tues, Thurs.



Jan 4, Quiz 10.30am-12.30pm, Mr Merlin 2-3.30pm. Both free.

PUPPET WORKSHOPS: Meet John Blundell, the man responsible for the current exhibition, and learn about the collection and how puppets work; make a paper puppet and join in a drama workshop; work with members of the Young Embroiders Society to make hand and finger puppets. Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Birmingham (021 2354201). Meet John Blundell, Mon 10.30am and 2pm; paper puppets, Tues 10.30am and 2pm; embroidered puppets, Thurs, Fri, 10.30am and 2pm. Free.

RAIDERS OF THE LOST ART WORKSHOP: Treasure trail for 8-14-year-olds to discover many of the "gems" in the collection, plus a family workshop based on the gallery's Celtic art exhibition. City Art Gallery, Mosley Street, Manchester (061 2389422). Trail throughout holidays (except Wed) Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2.30-6pm. Free. Workshop Mon, 2-4.30pm. Free. Further information (061 2389283).

BETHNAL GREEN WORKSHOPS: "Dolls in Ballet" talk by Kate Castle of the Royal Ballet followed by tuition for a simple dance in "Toy-Sellers and Jumping Jacks" Claire Plum described how she made the toy-sellers in the gallery, then shows children how to make jumping jacks. Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, London E2 (01-880 2415). "Dolls in Ballet" Mon and Thurs; "Toy-Sellers" Tues and Jan 4. All at 2.30pm. Free.

ASTERIX AND FRIENDS: Films of these famous cartoon characters plus trail sheets relating to Ancient Egypt and Roman Britain. Lecture on life and times of Asterix's real life creator, Jean Giraud. British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (01-638 1555). Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: films at 11am and 3pm; lecture Fri only at 1.15pm. Free.

FUNFASIA: Music and stories for children with Ann Rachlin. Ezra Rachlin conducts the LSO for three concerts. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2 (01-638 8891). Jan 4, 3pm. Adult £5.50, child £2.50.

MAKESPACE WORKSHOP: Children 8-13 years invited to design and build a home for a person or animal of their choice. Royal Institute of British Architects, 66 Portland Place, London W1. Jan 4. Registration fee £2. Places must be booked in advance. For details phone 01-580 5533 ext 225.

BRIDGE

Critical times

The Camrose Trials, which were resumed in London in November resulted in a convincing victory for Forrester, Brock, Kirby and Armstrong, with Sheehan, Myers, Rose and Smolksi second at a respectful distance.

One of the main points of interest was the performance of the volatile new combination of Rose and Smolksi. Rose is seldom critical of his partner's bidding, so I found his comments on this hand especially interesting.

North-South game. Dealer East.

W N E S
10 7 10 26
Double 24 34
SNT 40 74
No 70 Double No
70 Double No

There were no problems in the play, so Sheehan and Myers conceded 2140. There was more action in the open room.

suggests that, at this vulnerability, Smolksi should have been more circumspect. It is true that the IMP scale strongly favours the non-vulnerable sacrifice against a vulnerable grand slam. Had Shek made only two tricks, he would have shown a profit of one IMP. "Mess about a bit", Rose advises. "Start with three hearts, do a bit of cue bidding, and only then take the plunge." He has a point.

The next hand was a fair guide to the pattern of the weekend.

Game all Dealer West.

W N E S
14 10 27 40
No 14 No 27 No 40

and after a sensible exchange of cue bids, settled in six hearts. No doubt the selectors will rely upon the winners to form the nucleus of our team in the home internationals. It will be surprising if England's defence of the Camrose trophy is unsuccessful.

Jeremy Flint

CORSICA

What's different about Corsica?

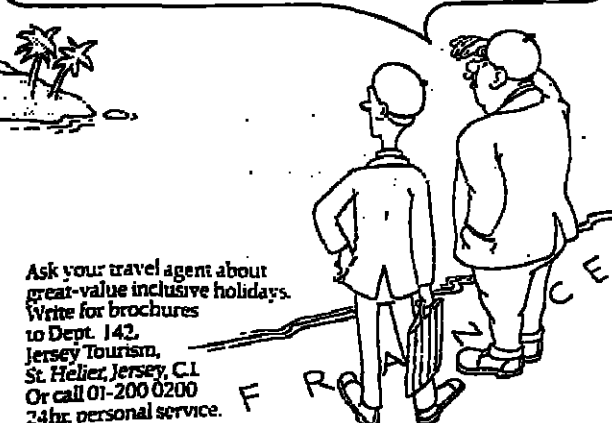
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RIPON 1100 FESTIVAL OPENING: To mark the 1,100th anniversary of the granting of a charter to the city of Ripon, a service on New Year's Eve in the cathedral (invitation only) followed by a torchlight procession to the market square where, at midnight, the dean blesses the city, the mayor opens festival year, the square and cathedral are floodlit, bands and entertainers herald the new year.

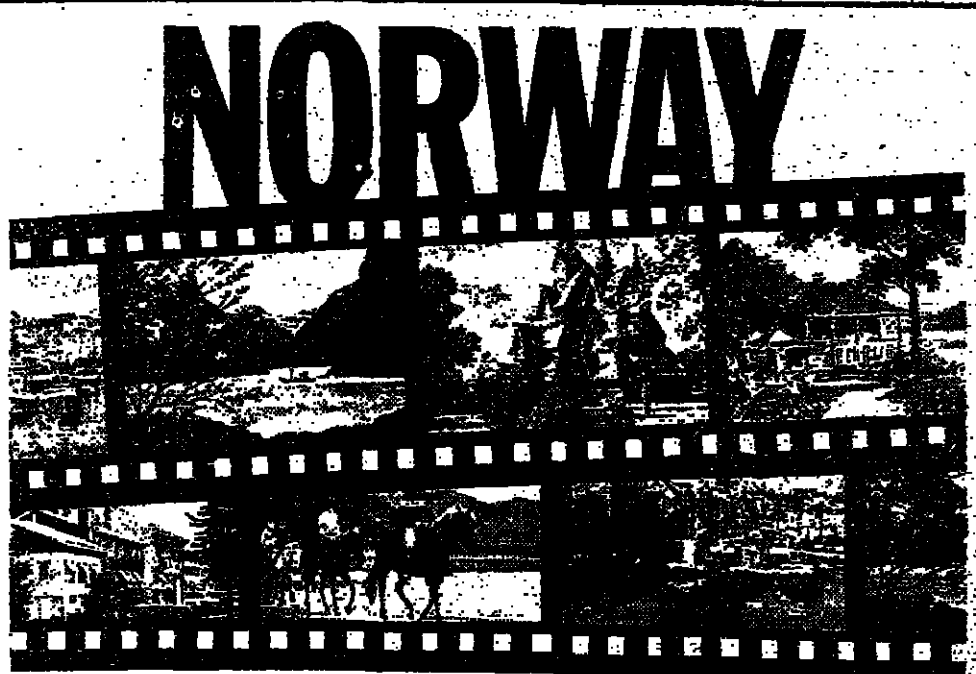
Ripon, North Yorkshire. Further information (0768 2666). Tues, 11.30pm onwards. Free.

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES: Informal activities for children aged 7-13. Question sheets, drawing boards, stools, crayons supplied. Main Building, Cardiff Park, Cardiff, Wales (0222 357951). Tues, Thurs, Fri, 10am-4pm. Free.

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THE NORWEGIAN EXPERIENCE

SHOPPING

By Beryl Downing

Glittering prizes for the bargain hunters

The first things you need to face the New Year in style are a pair of spurs and some elbow pads. For without these you will never survive the January sales. Several started yesterday and now is the time to hunt for the best bargains.

Some departments offer particularly good bargains - china at Harrods is a prime example. At John Lewis go for duvets and bedlinen; at Liberty, oriental carpets; at Heal's, beds and lighting. Best furniture buys are those with reliable names - Collins & Hayes, Michael Tyler, Derwent.

If you want sales clothes that will last keep to

classics - Burberry, of course, Daks at Simpsons. Aquascutum's men's overcoats, Jaeger's coats and cashmere, Russell & Bromley for the best boots.

If you feel there is still enough of the season left to snap up the current fashions then the best place to go is Fenwick or, for the best designer clothes, Harvey Nichols.

No one can hope to carry off glittering prizes from every department, so make a list of your priorities and refuse to be deflected. Here, room by room, is a guide to some of the best bargains on offer.

WOMENSWEAR

Country Casuals: Pin stripes pleat front trousers £29 (reduced from £39). 25in pencil skirt £29 (reduced from £39). Two-colour checked blouse £19 (reduced from £29). Hat bows and Donegal hats £3.95 (reduced from £5.95).

Simpsons: Cashmere coats £359 (reduced from £459). Trench raincoat with zip out check lining £88 (reduced from £135). Daks wool skirts £37.50 (reduced from £55) and wool trousers £22.50 (reduced from £35). Headed suits £129.50 (reduced from £159). Velour track suits £24.50 (reduced from £39.50).

Aquascutum: Raincoats £99 (reduced from £119). Wool/cashmere car coats £129 (reduced from £159). Blazers £99 (reduced from £119). Cashmere and wool coats by Norbert Neal £199 (reduced from £259). Cojane Italian knitted suits £99 (reduced from £119). Good underwear by Playtex, Lux, Gossard, Warners from £3.99, 20 per cent off Shilton handbags and £10 off Envy. Fenwick: Wool tweed coats trimmed with velvet collar and cuffs £125 (reduced from £159). Brocade evening jackets £19 (reduced from £29.50). Sheridan Barnett long herringbone wool jackets £35 (reduced from £49.50). Jaeger: Wool polo-neck ribbed sweaters £19 (reduced from £29.50). Chanel style check tweed coat, gold, pink, jade.

or more all with black £29 (£179), skirt to match £25 (£45), diagonal cut velvet cushion £29 (£59), skirt £29 (£55), big double breasted blouse in mole, ivy, russet and heather £45 (£109), wool and cashmere duvet coats, navy or blond £89 (£169).

Lower: Leather skirts in fashion colours £220 (£320), stamped nappa leather casual trousers, khaki, tan or tomato red £290 (£420), 30 per cent off everything in the current collection.

Harvey Nichols: Norma Kamali dresses half price, Jean Muir half price, Sonia Rykiel, Byblos and Krizia one third off selected items, flannel wool straight skirts by Nicole Farhi for Stephen Marks £25 (£50), wool flannel ciottes £57 (£88).

Liberty: Liberty print varuna wool shawl £15 reduced from £25.50. Liberty silk squares £9.50 to £20. Fenwick: Italian leather bags £25 (£39), perfect Christian Dior tights £1.10 per pair, five for £4, cashmere and wool scarves £9.95 (£22.50).

Selfridges: Fox walking length umbrellas £16.95 (£22.50). Russell & Bromley: Very good knee high boots £49.50 and £59.50 (£99.50), jodhpur ankle boots, burgundy, black, green or brown £29.99 (£39.99), tan leather and suede brogues £24.99 (£39.99). Bruno Magli courts £69.50 (£99.50), Charles Jourdan courts £49.50 (£79.50).

Bally: Casual ankle boots brown or grey £40 (£45), flat lace-up tan or grey £35 (£45.95), bronze leather ribboned evening shoe with purple ribbon trim £60 (£140).

MENSWEAR

Simpsons: Daks two-piece business suits £145 (reduced from £189), Simpson three-piece suits £139 (reduced from £179). £25 (£35), business shirts £19.50 (£29). Larvin £25 (£41), Cerruti silk trousers £89 (£155), Lacoste track suits £49 (£79).

Selfridges: Chester Barrie suits less 50 per cent, Christian Dior suits half price.

Aquascutum: All wool overcoats £99 (£195), trenchcoats £149 (£245), single ply cashmere

knitwear £55 (£105), cashmere scarves 72in long £29 (£59). Harrods man's shop: Lambkin coat, double breasted, full length £385 (£795). Benetton cashmere overcoat £150 (£385).

Gieves & Hawkes: Classic wool blazers £95 (£130), a few classic wool suits £195 (£475), one third off all standard suits, sports jackets £95 (£135), cotton shirts £22 (£32).

High & Mighty: For large men: Lightweight poly/cotton trousers £15.95 (£19.95), Geis wool suits £110 (£160). Byford long sleeved V-neck sweaters £15.95 (£22.50) and between 10 per cent and 50 per cent off selected ranges of other menswear.

LIVING ROOM

Liberty: Half price Oriental carpets and rugs from Persia, Turkey, Afghanistan and Russia; Fortuny lamps 15 per cent off.

Harrods: Dervent Salisbury upholstered furniture in cotton acrylic - three seat sofa £395 (reduced from £600), two seat £375 (£575), chair £200 (£300); Huxtar wall units including cupboard base, four drawer unit and wall mounted cupboard £895 (£1,236.50). Michael Tyler three seat sofa (Lasside) in leather £815 (£1,275). Collins & Hayes three seat sofa (Harover) in leather £725 (£1,230); half price Turkish kilims and Turkoman design Pakistan rugs.

Harrods: Sony Compact 77 Hi-Fi £699 (£1,049), Sanyo 16in portable television with teletext and remote control CTP 4132 £299 (£355), VHS video 9 over 14 day timer, remote control £259 (£499), Fisher 14in remote control television CFB 1410P £199 (£299).

Sanyo: Midi system with compact disc W10/CP500 £449.99 (£599), Super mini two-band stereo radio cassette £129 (£159), £254.99 (£799.99), AM/FM personal headphones radio RF70 £25 (£70).

Heals: Rhedol floor lamps £171 (£190), wall lamps £39.95 (£44.95), Tizio desk lamp, white or black £129 (£155).

Debenhams: Thomas the Tank Engine bean bags £13.99 (£17.99).



Bargain hunting in style: (For men) Viyella check shirt £22.50 (from £35) and Daks cashmere sports jacket in herringbone or houndstooth, 38-46 £235 (£339) both from Simpsons; Argyle V-neck sweater in various colours and size £25 (£37). Jaeger. (For women) Paul Costelloe black and grey wool tweed coat, three styles, sizes 10-14 £199 (£295), alpaca scarf in cream/grey, black/cream, grey/cream £30 (£45). All at Harvey Nichols.

KITCHEN AND DINING

David Mellor: Half price David Mellor cutlery seconds at the Sloane Square branch only, 20 per cent off all Mellor cutlery and 10 per cent discount on standard merchandise at all branches.

Heals: Kew dining table £289 (reduced from £330) and Delle dining chairs, both in natural oak £105 (£125), 40 per cent off litta Kartano range of bowls £2.85 (£4.45), 20 per cent off Old Dutch stainless steel cutlery £23.95 (£29.95) for a six place place setting.

Debenhams: Chinese wok 10-piece set £6.99 (£9.99), hand-out lead crystal decanters £19.99 (£45), 40 per cent off Meyer aluminium non-stick cookware, Kings, Durbury and Bead pattern silver plated cutlery canteen £89.99 (£210).

Harrods: AEG washer dryer £499 (£695), Bosch dishwasher £10 £250 (£318), Sanyo microwave £204 (£272), Grundig washer dryer W1012 £375 (£420).

Harrods Cookshop: Tefal graphite non-stick aluminium cookware half price, Polaris de Lux stainless steel cookware (imperfect) less 40 per cent.

24 piece dinner set £117.80 (£176.70), Royal Doulton Royal Gold 29 piece dinner set, imperfect £309.50 (£619), Royal Worcester Contessa 25 piece dinner set, imperfect £139.45 (£209.20). Atlantis Lyric large wine glasses £11.95 each (£17.95), Atlantis decanters £29.95 (£59.95), George Butler silverplated cutlery canteens, Harley or Gadroon, 44 piece £249 (£499).

BED & BATH

John Lewis: Special purchase of duvets: new white goose-down £135 top, single £59 (£69), double £83 (£95), king £99 (£115), new duck down 12 tog single £49 (£55), double £85 (£75), king £75 (£89).

London Bedding Centre: All beds reduced by 25 per cent, some by 50 per cent.

And So To Bed: Beds, mattresses and linens, many at less than half price.

Maples, Waring & Gillow: Antique pine finish bedroom furniture including dressing table £179.95 (£269.95), five drawer chest £179.95 (£269.95), three drawer £79.95 (£119.95).

Heals: Handmade Kilcrist bed £295 (£1,304) - the first time a Heals bed has been included in their sale. Staphane bunk beds £180 (£240), special purchase Peter Reed cotton sheets, double £13.95, two pillowcases £5.25.

Debenhams: Plain dyed towels, hand £9.99 (£3.99), bath £3.99 (£6.99), bath sheets £8.99 (£10.99), bath mats £2.99 (£5.99).

Liberty: Liberty print bedlinen: king size duvet cover £32.50 (£65), pillow cases £3.97 (£7.95).

Harrods: Fieldcrest Royal Velvet towels, half price on all large hand towels.

Tea set: Girol, Scroll design, 22 pieces £155 (£235.40), from Harrods.

Harrods: Haviland Florence 29 piece dinner set £167 (£250), Girol Scroll 22 piece tea set £155 (£235.40), Wedgwood Formal Gold

EATING OUT

Hail to the chefs that top the year's tables

Where can you find the best meals?
Stan Hey presents his annual awards

BEST OF BRITISH RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR



Ninety Park Lane Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London W1 (01-499 6363)

VEGETARIAN
Whitaker's
158 Broad Street, Five Ways, Birmingham 15 (021-632 5590)

WINE BAR
Jacques Wine Bar
130 Blackstock Road, London N4 (01-359 3410)

BRASSERIE
Soho Brasserie
23-25 Old Compton Street, London W1 (01-439 9301)

BREAKFAST
Brown's Hotel
Albemarle Street, London W1 (01-493 6020)

ETHNIC RESTAURANT
Bahn Thai
35 Marles Road, London W8 (01-937 9960)

SET LUNCH
Restaurant Seventy Four
74 Wincheap, Canterbury, Kent (0227 67411)

SUNDAY LUNCH
Rookery Hall
Worleston, near Nantwich, Cheshire (0270 626866)

SET DINNER
Mr Underhill's
Stonham, near Stowmarket, Suffolk (0449 711206)

championed - I wouldn't have thought terms such as pitta, moussaka, escalope or zabaglione had many terrors for people now - but generally it's an encouraging edition, with hints of over-zealousness.

I'd like to think that the restaurants which made most impact me over the past year exhibited equivalent strands of individual commitment and excellence. Despite the multinational corporation image of Trust House Forte, their flagship restaurant Ninety Park Lane at Grosvenor House, had a personal touch to it, which made it the most enjoyable venue for a treat. All right, Louis Outthier's three, Michelin rosette operation provided the backbone of the menu, but it has been expanded, interpreted and, let's not forget, executed by a rising young British chef Vaughan Archer.

On a much smaller scale (about 98 per cent smaller!) the two-person operation of Chris and Jas Bradley, at Mr Underhill's in Suffolk offered a smashing fixed-price four-course dinner for £15.95.

Excellence on a budget shone out of Ian McAndrew's set lunches at Restaurant Seventy Four in Canterbury (£8.50, £10 and £12.50), while at Worleston, Cheshire, the £12.95 for Rookery Hall's multifaceted Sunday lunch was impossible to better.

I also enjoyed the strapping, traditional breakfasts at Browns Hotel, the imaginative vegetarian food and the cheerful, unsanitised atmosphere of Whitaker's in Birmingham, the thick Gallic ambience and evident, freshly-prepared dishes at Jacques Wine Bar, and the spicy Eastern delicacies, helpful staff, and romantic atmosphere at Bahn Thai. Finally, I admired the 14-hour-a-day commitment of all involved with the Soho Brasserie, who gave us a glimpse of what life might be like if our licensing laws were ever modernized.

But the more sober reality is that 1985 seems likely to be dominated by further development of two distinct trends - the quest for "healthy" eating, and the rise of the country house restaurant.

One eminent food writer with whom I discussed the question of improved diets felt that it was a modish flash in the wok, yet I believe steady progress is being made both in public awareness and professional response.

The increasing popularity of fish restaurants, the expansion of the Japanese presence, with its minimalist cooking, the launching of Anton Mosimann's "cuisine naturelle" and Raymond Blanc's strictures against processed food at the Chêfs Conference, all seemed evidence of a movement which will not fade away.

Nor is this trend likely to be undermined by the growing band of quality chefs forsaking the cities for country restaurants. Committed to growing their own herbs and organic vegetables and to severing ties with the factory farm, these ladies and gentlemen seem set to offer us both excellence and healthiness - two good watchwords for 1986.

SALES DIARY

NOW ON

Aquascutum: 100 Regent Street, London W1.
* Alders of Croydon, North End, Croydon.
And So To Bed, 7 New Kings Road, London SW6; 968 Camden High Street, NW1; 26 Castle Street, Edinburgh.
* Austin Reed, all branches.
Belly, all branches.
British Home Stores, all branches.
* Burberry, 18-22 Haymarket, London SW1; 165 Regent Street, W1.
Country Casuals, all branches.
Debenhams, all branches.
Fenwick New Bond Street, London W1; Brent Cross Shopping Centre, London NW4.
Heals, 188 Tottenham Court Road, London W1.
* High & Mighty, 177 Brompton Road, London SW3; 145-147

Edwards Road, W2; 22/23 Princes Street, W1; 275 High Holborn, WC1; 415-417 Oxford Street, W1.
* John Lewis, Edinburgh.
* Liberty, Regent Street, London W1.
London Bedding Centre, 26/27 Sloane Street, London SW1.
* Maples, Waring & Gillow, all branches.
Paddy Campbell, 8 Goss Court, St Christopher's Place, London W1, and 17 Beuchamp Place, SW3.
Russell & Bromley, all branches.
* Selfridges, Oxford Street, London W1.
* Simpson, Piccadilly, London W1.

London SW1. Dec 30.
John Lewis Partnership, all other branches. Dec 31.

JANUARY

Fenwick: Newcastle upon Tyne. Jan 2.
Gieves & Hawkes, 18 Lime Street, London EC3; 1 Savile Row, W1. Jan 2.
Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Jan 2.
Sanyo, 80 Regent Street, London W1. Jan 6.
Laewe, 25 Old Bond Street, London W1; 47 Brompton Road, London W1.
Harrods, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Jan 8.
Sassa, 76B Rochester Row, London SW1. Jan 9.
David Mellor, 4 Sloane Square, London SW1; 25 James Street, Covent Garden, London WC2; 66 King Street, Manchester. Jan 11.
* Open New Year's Day.

STARTS TODAY
John Lewis, Oxford Street, London W1.
DECEMBER
John Lewis, Brent Cross Shopping Centre, London NW4. Dec 30.
Peter Jones, Sloane Square,

DRINK

Wines with a party flavour

Most people's idea of the perfect party wine is cheap, cheerful and lots of it. My taste buds, however, are a fastidious lot. They weaned themselves off the average party plonk years ago, claiming that the fun of the night before was no recompense for the sensitive stomach and spitting-head of the morning after.

What the hell I crave on New Year's Eve is high quality, low-price, party wines with appealing fruity flavours that are likely to go down well with everybody.

Finding these delightful but elusive creatures is a good deal more difficult than it sounds.

This year, for instance, my quest for the finest cheap wines has sent around 10,000 wines swirling round my taste buds. Wine quality controllers and blenders in this country and abroad taste twice that amount.

What keeps me going is that from time to time, tucked in from time to time, I discover a wine with a flavour and finesse warranting a £3-plus price tag, yet selling for under £2 a bottle. The supermarkets and wine warehouses are my chief source of bargains and, predictably, many of my 1985 cheap wine wonders were found at a tasting held by Waitrose in October.

The first wine in the line-up demonstrated why Waitrose leads the field. The excellent one-litre Waitrose Carafe Red from Sardinia had a pretty pale colour, plus an appealing spicy-peppery nose backed by a peppery-fruity taste. Although no one would put it in the first league, it is nonetheless good value for money at £2.29 a litre. By my calculations this works out at £1.72 per 75cl bottle or an amazingly low £1.63 a bottle if you buy the two-litre Carafe Red for £3.35.

Easier still on the taste buds is the Greek 70cl bottle of Apollo Dry Red from Courtaux. Pale red, light and fruity, it should make a pleasant reminder of summer holidays for just £1.95. At the same tasting I also enjoyed the soft, ripe, raspberry fruitiness of an '83 Domaine de Rozens, priced at £1.95 for the 70cl bottle, from the Coteaux du Tricastin, an AC region that lies to the south of Montellmar in the Rhône valley.

It is worth remembering when buying in bulk, however, that a case of 12 75cl bottles could well turn out to be better value than a dozen 70cl bottles, as you get 60cl extra - almost a bottle - with the 75cl cases.

Finally, bubbly fans will be glad to know that "seeing in" 1986 need not be as expensive as they might suppose. The G.F. Cavalier Brut, priced at an enticingly low £2.49 (from either Oddbins or Majestic Wine Warehouses) which I recommended two weeks ago in this column, has a delightful, crisp green, racy style and is still the best buy in fizz of 1985. Happy New Year!

Jane MacQuitty

IN THE GARDEN

Relax and read all about it

The dark days of winter are the time to sit down and read some words, read the seed catalogues and plan next summer's display.

Each year there are a great many new plants and it is always worth while having some to try out. Begonias are great favourites and the place to look for novelty is Suttons, which is the only company to stock *Begonia semperflorens* "Treasure Trove" mix. These make compact plants with green as well as bronze foliage. The colour range goes from the deep reds through to pale pink and white.

One plant now increasing in popularity is the Busy Lizzie - excellent value for any garden. Suttons now have a dwarf form: *Impatiens sultani* "Mini Mixed". It grows six to eight inches high and, though compact, has a wide colour range and a long flowering season. Another plant only available through Suttons is Afro-French Marigold "Cajun Parade". This is an F1 and, as it is a hybrid between the French and African marigolds, it has flowers midway between the two. The flowers are fully double and profuse ranging from lemon yellow to a strong orange.

Verbenas are rather neglected and this is a pity. The new forms throw their flowers well clear of the foliage and are excellent bedders. "Derby Mixed" is new to Suttons and, with a wide colour range, is sure to catch on.

SEED SUPPLIERS

Suttons Seeds, Hale Road, Torquay, Devon TQ2 7JL; Samuel Doble & Son, Dobbies Seeds, Upper Dea Mills, Langlois, Cwyd LL20 8SD; Thompson and Morgan, The Seedman, London Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP2 0BA; Urwins Seeds, Histon, Cambridge CB4 4LE; Marshalls Seeds & Co, Regal Road, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire PE13 2RF; Hurst Seeds, Avenue Road, Witham, Essex CM8 2DX.

Window blessing

One of the most pleasant window plants, *Aloe variegata*, fits on the smallest sill. Some 12in tall, it is easy to grow, remains compact throughout its life and only gains height when it throws up its central spike of flowers. These are very pretty but sadly don't necessarily come every year.

This Aloe is happy in soil or soil-based composts. As the speedy drainage of all supraplants is essential, a softness compost is best with one-third sharp sand added. The root system is not extensive and the potting of Aloe must be lightly if firmly done. The plant is commonly called the Partridge-breasted Aloe because of its thick light green leaves and whitish bands of colour. It prefers the dry atmosphere of the house, rather than the humid one of a greenhouse, and should be kept slightly moist.

How to get into the Harvey Nichols Sale before everyone else.

Our Sale starts on Thursday January 2nd, but account customers can preview the sale merchandise and enjoy an extra 10% off sale prices this Monday and Tuesday.

To open an account, simply present a valid credit card or bankers card to customer services on the 5th floor.

You can then fritter away the £500 instant credit and snap up the reductions (many of them half price) at your leisure.

of world sport for 1986



ICE HOCKEY

Dec 28-Jan 2: European Junior Championships pool C, Barcelona
Mar 20-22: World championships, Pool B, Enschede, Netherlands
Mar 21-22: World junior championships, Pool C, Gap, France
Apr 12-28: World championships, Pool A, Moscow
Apr 25-27: Heineken British championship finals, Wembley

ICE SKATING

Jan 11-12: Women's European speed championships, Gellius, Netherlands
Jan 25-26: Men's European speed championships, Oslo
Jan 27-Feb 1: European figure and dance championships, Copenhagen
Jan 31-Feb 1: World speed championships, Calgary
Feb 8-9: Women's world speed championships, The Hague
Feb 14-15: Men's world speed championships, Heerenveen, Netherlands
Mar 17-22: World figure and dance championships, Geneva
Mar 20-21: British indoor speed championships, Peterborough
Apr 3-5: World indoor speed championships, Quebec
Sept 23-28: St. Ivel International, Richmond
Nov 14-16: British dance championships, Nottingham (prov)
Nov 24-26: British figure championships (prov)

JUDO

Mar 15-16: European Open women's championships, Crystal Palace
Apr 11-12: World junior championships (young men), Rome
Apr 11: British Open men's championships, Crystal Palace
Apr 12-13: European senior men's championships, Belgrade
June 28: National men's championships, South
June 29: National women's championships, South
Sept 27: British Open women's championships, Crystal Palace
Oct 24-27: Women's world championships, Maastricht, Netherlands
Nov 8-9: European Junior championships (young men) (Under 20), young women (Under 18), Austria

LACROSSE

Women
Feb 1-2: All-England territorial championships (1st weekend), Harrogate
Feb 8: All-England junior territorial championships, Bedford
Feb 15-16: All-England territorial championships (2nd weekend), Newbury
Feb 28: England v England Reserves, Crystal Palace
Mar 1: Wales v Scotland, Cardiff
Mar 8: Scotland v England, Edinburgh; Oxford v Cambridge, Oxford
Mar 15: England v Wales, National schools tournament (finals), Moutspur Park
Mar 16: Junior England v England Under 21, Crawley
Mar 22-23: All-England clubs and colleges tournament, Merton
Mar/Apr: Iroquois Indians tour of England
June 14-21: 2nd World Cup, Philadelphia
July 19-22: England counties tournament, venue to be announced
Men
Feb 22: South of England flag finals, Enfield
Mar 3: Franklin and Marshall College, US v North of England, venue to be announced
Mar 11: Franklin and Marshall College, US v England Under 21, venue to be announced
Mar 13: Franklin and Marshall College, US v Sheffield, Sheffield
Mar 25: Lancashire v Cheshire, Didsbury
Apr 6: North of England flag finals, Cheshire
May 16: Iroquois Cup (England clubs), South
July 19-22: World series, Toronto
Oct 18: South of England counties festival, Orpington

MODERN PENTATHLON

Mar 29-30: National triathlon championships, Crystal Palace
May 23-25: International, Walsgate
June 6-8: Women's international, Bedford
July 4-6: World Open, Milton Keynes
Aug 5-10: British championships (men, junior, women), Montecatini, Italy
Sept 5-7: National junior and women's championships, Basingstoke
Nov 15-16: National biathlon championships, Lincoln

MOTOR CYCLING

March 18: British Round, Motor-cycles Trials World Championship, Wetherby
March 28-31: Transatlantic Challenge Motor-cycle Races, Donington Park
April 6: Italian Formula One Motor-cycle World Championship, Mugello
April 13: French Motor-cycle World Endurance Championship, 24 hours, Le Mans
April 25-27: British Sidecar-Cross Grand Prix, Mortimer and District MCC
May 4: Spanish Motor-cycle Grand Prix, Jarama
May 4: German Formula One Motor-cycle World Championship, Hockenheim
May 11: Portuguese Motor-cycle World Endurance Championship, 6 hours, Estoril
May 18: Italian Motor-cycle Grand Prix, Monza
May 25: German Motor-cycle Grand Prix, Nurburgring
May 31: Isle of Man TT, Isle of Man
May 31-June 1: British Round, World Two-day Motor-cycle Endurance Championship (Natterjack Enduro), Bordon, Hants
June 2: Isle of Man Formula Two and First Production TT
June 4: Isle of Man Junior and Second Sidecar TT
June 6: Isle of Man Second Production and Senior TT
June 12: Australian Motor-cycle Grand Prix, Salzbirgung
June 15: Italian Motor-cycle World Endurance Championship, 6 hours, Imola
June 15: British 250cc Moto-Cross Grand Prix, Farley Castle
June 15: Yugoslav Motor-cycle Grand Prix, Rijeka
June 22: Austrian Motor-cycle World Endurance Championship, 6 hours, Osterreicherung
June 28: Dutch Motor-cycle Grand Prix and Formula One World Championship, Assen
July 5: Belgian Motor-cycle Grand Prix, Spa Francorchamps
July 12-13: British 500cc Moto-Cross Grand Prix, Hawkstone Park
July 13: Spanish Formula One and Two World Championships, Jerez
July 20: Portuguese Formula One and Two World Championships, Vila Real
July 27: Japanese Motor-cycle World Endurance Championship, 8 hours, Suzuka
Aug 3: British Motor-cycle Grand Prix, Silverstone
Aug 3: Finnish Formula One and Two Motor-cycle World Championships, Imatra
Aug 10: Swedish Motor-cycle Grand Prix, Anderstorp
Aug 16: Irish Formula One and Two World Championships, Dundrod
Aug 17: Belgian Motor-cycle World Endurance Championship, 24 hours, Spa Francorchamps
Aug 24: San Marino Motor-cycle Grand Prix, Misano
Aug 28: German Motor-cycle Grand Prix (small classes and sidecars), Hockenheim
Aug 31: Austrian Motor-cycle World Endurance Championship, 1,000km, Hockenheim
Sept 9-13: International Six-day Enduro, Italy (provisionally Palermo)
Sept 28: Spanish Motor-cycle World Endurance Championship, 8 hours, Jerez
Sept 28: German Formula Two World Motor-cycle Championship, Hockenheim
Formula 1 world championship
Mar 23: Brazilian Grand Prix, Rio de Janeiro
Apr 27: San Marino Grand Prix, Imola, Italy
May 11: Monaco Grand Prix, Monte Carlo
May 25: Belgian Grand Prix, Zolder
May 18: Canadian Grand Prix, Montreal
June 22: Detroit Grand Prix, Detroit
July 6: French Grand Prix, Dijon
July 13: British Grand Prix, Brands Hatch
Watch Alain Prost defend his world championship, with his new Marlboro McLaren team partner, Keke Rosberg, among his main rivals. Nigel Mansell, who won his first Grand Prix victory, but Ayrton Senna and his JPS Lotus should be the combination to beat in qualifying. Tickets from: RAC Motor Sports Association Ltd, 31 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QH (Tel: 01-235 8601) or Grand Prix Box Office, Baines Hatched Circuit, Ryehouse, Bedfordshire, Tel: 0474 872331.
July 27: German Grand Prix, Nurburgring
Aug 10: Hungarian Grand Prix, Budapest
Aug 17: Austrian Grand Prix, Zeltweg
Aug 31: Dutch Grand Prix, Zandvoort
Sept 7: Italian Grand Prix, Monza
Sept 21: Portuguese Grand Prix, Estoril
Oct 12: Mexican Grand Prix, Mexico City
Oct 25: Australian Grand Prix, Adelaide
In addition to the above dates, the following have been reserved for possible use for a world championship race: Mar 9, Apr 6, Apr 13, Aug 3. The world championship will be confined to 16 races. Alternative venues include Argentina, Spain and Europe (Silverstone).
Sportsman World Championship
Apr 5: Mugello, Italy
Apr 20: Monza, Italy
May 5: Silverstone
May 31: Le Mans
July 20: Brands Hatch
Aug 2: reserve date
Aug 24: Nurburgring, Germany
Sept 14: Spa-Francorchamps, Belgium
Oct 5: Mount Fuji, Japan
Nov 30: Selangor, Malaysia
Dec 7: Surfers Paradise, Australia
World rally championship
Feb 24: Monte Carlo
Feb 14-16: Swedish
Mar 24: Portugal
Mar 4-8: Portuguese

Mar 30-Apr 3: Safari
May 1-4: Corsican
May 31-June 5: Acropolis
July 3-5: New Zealand
July 3-10: Argentinian
Sept 2: National 1000 Lakes
Oct 12-18: San Remo (Italy)
Nov 16-20: Lombard RAC

NETBALL

Feb 15: England v Republic of Ireland (Senior/Under 21), Bristol
Mar 1-2: United Kingdom & Ireland tournament Under 18, Bradford
Apr 12: Northern Ireland v England (Senior/Under 21), Belfast
Apr 26: Barclays Bank national youth tournament finals, Ealing
May 10: Butler Cup final, Manchester
June 7: International Butler Cup final, Wales
Nov 29: England v Australia, Wembley

ORIENTEERING

Feb 2: National event, Dorking
Mar 2: National event, Cranbrook
Mar 28-31: National event, East Angles
Apr 22: National event, Lake Coniston
May 3: National event, Forest of Dean
May 4: British relay championships, Forest of Dean
May 25: British championships, Forest of Dean
June 1: National event, Sheffield
June 7: National event, Scotland
Nov 2: National event, Southampton
Nov 16: National event, Scotland
Nov 30: National event, North-east

POLO

June 1-8: H.M. The Queen's Cup, Windsor
June 12-22: Royal Windsor Cup, Windsor
June 24-26: Warwickshire Cup, Warwick
July 1-20: British Open championship, Midhurst
July 1-20: Cirencoer Champion Cup, Cirencoer
July 27: Carlier International matches, Windsor
July 24-Aug 3: Cowdray Park Challenge Cup, Cowdray
Aug 11-17: National 15-goal championship, Cirencoer
Aug 15-16: British Open and Two World Championships, Midhurst
Aug 26-31: Cheltenham Cup, Cirencoer
United Kingdom offshore
May 3-4: Spinehead Trophy, Portsmouth
July 13: London/Calais/London, Tower Bridge
July 27-28: Brighton Marina Trophy, Sussex
Aug 2: Torbay International, Brixham
Sept 20-21: Bournehead European class 1 and class 2 May 4: Cannes
May 10: Monte Carlo
May 25: St Tropez
May 25-27: Spanish venue
May 31-June 1: Venice
June 15: Punta Ala, Italy
June 28: Porto Cervo, Sardinia
July 27: Meraggio, Italy
Aug 2: Ovegrund, Sweden
Aug 18: Poole
Aug 24: Cowes
Sept 7: Guernsey
World grand prix inland circuit
Apr 26-27: Milan
May 1: Italian venue (prov)
June 14-15: Bristol
June 21-22: Augusta, Georgia
June 28-29: Dutch venue
July 12-13: Hannover, West Germany
Aug 2-3: Drammen, Norway
Aug 9-10: St Louis, Missouri
Aug 23-25: London

POWER BOATING

Jan 1-5: Open Under 24 singles and doubles, Queen's Club
Jan 10-19: Amateur doubles, Queen's Club
Feb 21-23: Professionals singles, Queen's Club
Mar 1-2: Dartmouth doubles cup, BRNC
Mar 1-6: Open singles, Queen's Club
Jan 1-5: Open Under 24 singles and doubles, Queen's Club
Jan 10-19: Amateur doubles, Queen's Club
Feb 21-23: Professionals singles, Queen's Club
Mar 1-2: Dartmouth doubles cup, BRNC
Mar 1-6: Open singles, Queen's Club

RACKETS

Jan 1-5: Open Under 24 singles and doubles, Queen's Club
Jan 10-19: Amateur doubles, Queen's Club
Feb 21-23: Professionals singles, Queen's Club
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Jan 10-19: Amateur doubles, Queen's Club
Feb 21-23: Professionals singles, Queen's Club
Mar 1-2: Dartmouth doubles cup, BRNC
Mar 1-6: Open singles, Queen's Club

RACING

Jan 11: Embassy Premier Chase final, Ascot
Feb 8: Schweppes Gold Trophy, Newbury
Feb 15: Irish Champion Hurdle, Leopardstown
Mar 11: Champion Hurdle, Cheltenham
Mar 12: Queen Mother Champion Chase, Cheltenham
Mar 13: Cheltenham Gold Cup, Cheltenham
Mar 22: Lincoln Handicap, Doncaster
Mar 31: Irish Grand National, Fairyhouse
Apr 5: Grand National, Aintree
Last Suspect, the 1985 Grand National winner, has been brought out of retirement by Anne, Duchess of Westminster for another tilt at the gruelling Aintree chase. Victory in three years would give Tim Foster a fourth training success in the race - a post-war record. Red Rum's trainer, Donald McCain, has a live contender in Kumbi but the leading northern hope is likely to be Mr Sanguit, runner-up to Last Suspect nine months ago after a busy season.
Apr 16: European Free Handicap, Newmarket
Apr 19: Scottish Grand National, Ayr
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Oct 5: Mount Fuji, Japan
Nov 30: Selangor, Malaysia
Dec 7: Surfers Paradise, Australia
World rally championship
Feb 24: Monte Carlo
Feb 14-16: Swedish
Mar 24: Portugal
Mar 4-8: Portuguese

With so many leading Flat stables affected by the virus in 1985, it is quite conceivable that the 1986 Derby winner has not yet run or has run and not won. Among those in the latter category are Shahrastani (Michael Stoute), Broom Point (John Dunlop), Fagan (Henry Cecil) and White Red (Dick Hern). All four trainers have won the Derby in the last eight years, here twice.
June 5: Coronation Cup, Epsom
June 7: Oaks, Epsom
June 8: French Derby, Chantilly
June 15: French Oaks, Chantilly
June 18: Gold Cup, Royal Ascot
June 20: King's Stand Stakes, Royal Ascot
June 28: Irish Derby, Curragh
Northumbrian Plate, Newcastle
July 5: Eclipse Stakes, Sandown
July 12: Magnat Cup, York; Irish Oaks, Curragh
July 26: King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes, Ascot
July 28: Stewards' Cup, Goodwood
July 30: Sussex Stakes, Goodwood
Aug 18: Yorkshire Oaks, York
Aug 20: Stewards' Handicap, York
Aug 21: William Hill Sprint Championship, York
Aug 23: Waterford Crystal Mile, Goodwood
Aug 31: Arlington Million, Chicago
Sept 5: Eclipse Stakes, Sandown
Sept 10: July Cup, Newmarket
July 12: Magnat Cup, York; Irish Oaks, Curragh
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Rock & jazz records

REVIEW

Houston fails first attempt at lift-off

Of all the American female soloists to top the British charts this year - Phyllis Nelson, Madonna, Jennifer Rush - Ms Whitney Houston is the one you'd put money on to last the course a few more years.

Houston's background and pedigree are impeccable. Her mother is the gospel singer and former Sweet Inspiration Clara Houston, the woman whose version of "Midnight Train to Georgia" is still the one to beat. Whitney's cousin is Dionne Warwick and she calls Aretha Franklin auntie.

Whitney has already topped both the American R&B and pop charts twice and is leading the field here too with the contemplative, nicely paced "Saving All My Love for You". Her debut album, though, is something of a disappointment. It suffers primarily from allowing the 22-year-old to be used as a mouthpiece for too many writer-turned-producers and a selection of material which seldom allows the gospel timbres and strong tones in her voice to rise above a morass of insipid digital soul-by-numbers.

The exceptions offer a tantalizing glimpse of what might have been. The next single, "How Will I Know", has the earthy belting quality of Aretha Franklin. In its extended mix the sound is custom-made for dance floor and commercial consumption, combining the vogue for frenzied sensuality à la Madonna with some archetypal New Jersey horns that could have walked off a Springsteen record.

The ballads and duets with Jermaine Jackson and Teddy Pendergrass merely indicate that Ms Houston is being moulded into an all-round supper club and cocktail entertainer at the expense of her true forte, which is surely to handle some real explosive church R&B without all the insidious hardware.

While media attention continues to be devoted to John Lennon, his widow, Yoko Ono, has kept a dignified, low profile of late. After 1983's fairly indecipherable *It's Alright* album the world has hardly waited on tenterhooks for the centric artist's latest music, but *Starpeace* is an extraordinary and approachable album.

Whitney Houston (Arista 206 378)
Yoko Ono *Starpeace* (PolyGram 827 530-1)
Fine Young Cannibals (London LONL P16)
Lloyd Cole & The Communications
Easy Pieces (LCLP2)

Producer Bill Laswell gives Ono her most focused aural canvas since the Plastic Ono Band days - which this in no way resembles - and by contrasting Yoko's most soulful approach to date with musicians like Bernie Worrell, Sly and Robbie, guitarist Eddie Martinez and drummer Tony Williams, the whole affair coasts along with surprising vigour.

It is hard to believe that Yoko Ono would make a fully-fledged pop record but all her avant-garde tendencies are discarded in favour of simple structures and a set of lyrics which tend towards sentiment in the same way that Kate Bush deals in whimsy.

I doubt if Yoko Ono will appear in the charts with "Children Power" or "I Love You Earth" but *Starpeace* has sufficient imagination and melody to become a cult artefact in years to come.

The Fine Young Cannibals from Coventry turned many heads earlier in the year with the sparkling debut single "Johnny Come Home" in which the fresh and pleasing tones of singer Roland Gift hinted at great things to come.

Their eponymous first album never quite fulfils that promise. The playing of ex-beat members Andy Cox on guitar and David Steele on bass and keyboards ensures the clear-cut edge of practised players remains but Mr Gift hasn't quite learnt the techniques of space and timing.

Gift has the ability to dwell in areas of declaratory or pleading soul and the comparisons to the style of Otis Redding are not entirely fanciful. What he doesn't do is curb his enthusiasm for mannered yelping which occasionally makes him sound like Elvis Costello at the wrong speed.

Most of the songs suffer from a two-dimensional quality which leaves them uncomfortably hanging in the air between pure pop and club-rock with an updated finesse.

When Gift and chums relax into the groove of "Blue" with its edgy metaphor of the political hue and the emotional state, or the pleasantly grouchy "Couldn't Care More", all the respective talents fall into place.

Lloyd Cole and the Communications' *Rattlesnakes* was one of the finds of last year. Bookish, occasionally pedantic but prone to outbursts of incisive irony, the mild-mannered Cole is gradually outgrowing his folksy Low Reed guise and settling into a niche which almost pastiches country conventions.

Easy Pieces benefits from the change in direction. Cole still likes to indulge in wordplay but the jokes are usually double-edged and the songs have a habit of unsettling one with their nervous phrasings and documentary accuracy.

The best song of all is "Why I Love Country Music", a glorious selection of clichés and Nashville hokum delivered with as much sincerity as Cole can muster without laughing aloud. Maybe Waylon and Willie never played it like this but I doubt if they had the Communications' sense of humour either.



Soulful: Yoko Ono, going for simplicity and sentiment

Bob Dylan: Biograph (CBS CSX 38830, 5 discs)
Sandy Denny: Who Knows Where The Time Goes? (Island SDSP 100, 4 discs)

Nothing as simple as a "greatest hits" collection from the Bob Dylan of 1985, of course. In the way that it mirrors the inconsistency and contradictions of his extraordinary career, *Biograph* is the closest he has come to creating a full self-portrait. A huge and sprawling canvas covering 10 sides of vinyl with 53 songs, nine of them previously unreleased by Dylan and nine more in unfamiliar versions, it encompasses recycled traditional ballads, devotional tracts, fire-breathing rockers, loose after-hours jams and tautly wound concert performances in which the audience is sometimes perceived as an adversary.

All these combine to create the image of an enigmatic figure who did as much as anyone else to mould post-war Anglo-American popular music and the international youth culture which it was to inspire.

Dylan's comprehension of his own role is the true revelation, and you will get that not from the music but from the lengthy and absorbing interview (by *Rolling Stone* journalist Cameron Crowe) that is to be found in the lavish accompanying pamphlet and in the commentary on the individual songs that appears on the five inner sleeves.

Here is Dylan's view of his early impact on the folk clubs of Greenwich Village: "Actually, attitude had more to do with it than technical ability, and that's what the folk movement lacked. In other words, I played all the folk songs with a rock 'n' roll attitude." Later, he looks at himself from the other side of the room: "The thing about rock 'n' roll is that, for me anyway, it wasn't enough. 'Tutti Frutti' and 'Blue Suede Shoes' were great catch-phrases and driving pulse rhythms and you could get high on the energy, but they weren't serious or didn't reflect life in a realistic way... folk music was more of a serious type of thing. Life is full of complexities, and rock 'n' roll didn't reflect that... If I did anything, I brought one to the other."

Indeed he did. His wordplay

Dylan's life blood on the tracks



Folk rock anthologies: Bob Dylan in 1966 (left) and in 1984 at Wembley. Below, the late Sandy Denny

raised the rock lyric from the simplicity of "The Times" to the sophistication of Randy Newman and Elvis Costello; his acoustic strumming opened the way for the modal improvisations of the psychedelic era; his ability to catch the winds of social change made it vital for every subsequent rock performer - from Sonny and Cher through Johnny Rotten to Steven Morrissey - to strike an attitude; he bequeathed to David Bowie and countless lesser men the idea that pop stars could surround themselves with rumour and mystery.

In various comments here, Dylan seems to agree that we are no better off for any of these developments. "Everything is crooked now and all the signs all point the wrong way," he says. "It's like we're living at the time of the Tower of Babel, all our tongues are confused... To the aspiring young songwriter I say disregard all the current stuff, forget it, you're better off reading John Keats, Melville, listen to Robert Johnson and Woody Guthrie..."

Anthologies such as this invariably present long-term admirers with a difficult and expensive decision. To them, what use are more copies of the best-known versions of "Blowing in the Wind", "The Times They Are a-Changing",



"Like a Rolling Stone", "Positively Fourth Street", "I Want You" and "Lay Lady Lay"? Yet these listeners are the ones who will be most interested to hear the material formerly available on bootlegs of variable quality, such as the gorgeous "Lay Down Your Weary Tune" and "Percy's Song", all written in the early 1960s, familiar in other hands and presented here in fine demo-studio recordings.

he later unveiled himself as an electrified rocker to a chorus of dismay from his less flexible fans.

Since there is no apparent aesthetic or chronological scheme to this compilation, Dylan's commentary is left to provide the thread. His unexpectedly vivid powers of recall, frequent displays of affection (particularly towards John Lennon and Jimi Hendrix), quiet humour, sharp analysis and general awareness make one look at him afresh, leading to the surmise that the well of his imagination may not have run completely dry since his last wholly satisfying album, 1975's *Blood on the Tracks*.

In this respect it may be significant that a song called "Every Grain of Sand", written and recorded in 1981 for the most poorly received of his religious albums, burns in this volume of the better known million-sellers rock rather dim.

Sandy Denny was one of those long-haired girls whose presence in the folk clubs of the mid-1960s was almost entirely due to Dylan's long-distance charisma. Hers was a sadly short career, taking wing when she joined the fledgling Fairport Convention in 1968 and ending with her death in a domestic

accident 10 years later at the age of 30.

Dylan's "Tomorrow is a Long Time", recorded in 1972 for her second solo album, and "Knocking on Heaven's Door", captured at a club performance two years later during her second spell with Fairport Convention, are among the 43 songs of this boxed collection, almost half of them previously unreleased.

They range from voice-and-piano versions of new songs informally recorded at her home to a fully orchestrated arrangement of "Whispering Grass", and from her tentative first recording with the Strawbs to the exuberant humour of a duet with Linda Thompson in an "Every Sisters" version of "When Will I Be Loved".

She was never a completely reliable artist, but her voice had a genuinely original quality, at once plaintive and sensual, youthful and grave. No other singer of her type could have brought such intuitive feeling and musician's skill to Fotheringhay's "The Banks of the Nile", one of the performances by which history will judge the British folk-rock movement, and which draws the listener into its enchanted tapestry as surely as it did 15 years ago.

Richard Williams

HOLIDAY TELEVISION AND RADIO

By Peter Waymark



Stars on the screen: Angela Lansbury with David Niven in *Death on the Nile* (BBC1, today); Alan Hale, Eugene Pallette and Errol Flynn in *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (BBC1, tomorrow) and Ben Kingsley in *Gandhi* (BBC1, tomorrow)

Bring out the old to see in the new . . .

Another year, another spate of classic films on TV. This is the connoisseur's guide

- TODAY**
- MACBETH (1948)**
BBC2, 4.05-5.55pm
Orson Welles's brave and fascinating attempt to tackle Shakespeare in 23 days on a tiny budget. Highly stylised, visually inventive film dominated by Welles himself as the tragic hero.
- BRONCO BILLY (1980)**
ITV, 6.30-8.45pm
Clint Eastwood directing himself in a likeable modern Western with the accent on comedy and nostalgia. He plays a former show salesman trying to save an ailing Wild West Show and getting involved with a New York heiress.
- THE FAR COUNTRY (1954)**
Channel 4, 7.15-9pm
Fine, tough Western with James Stewart and Walter Brennan as cattlemen up against bad ole John McIntire during the Klondike Gold Rush. One of many fruitful collaborations between Stewart and director Anthony Mann.
- DEATH ON THE NILE (1978)**
BBC1, 7.55-10.10pm
Handsome version of the Agatha Christie whodunit about a murdered American heiress with Peter Ustinov as Hercule Poirot and an all-star cast of suspects including Bette Davis, Mia Farrow.
- * DON GIOVANNI (1979)**
Channel 4, 9pm-12.35am
Joseph Losey's controversial treatment of the Mozart opera which ambitiously tries to reconcile an essentially theatrical form with the resources of cinema. With Ruggero Raimondo in the title role and Kiri Te Kanawa.
- THE WRONG MAN (1956)**
BBC1, 11.15pm-1am
Alfred Hitchcock's sombre and compelling excursion into semi-documentary, based on the true story of an unassuming double bass player (Henry Fonda) wrongly accused of a hold-up.
- TOMORROW**
- THE LADY FROM SHANGHAI (1948)**
BBC2, 1.55-3.20pm
Irish adventurer Orson Welles ensnared by *femme fatale* Rita Hayworth and manipulated by her crippled husband. Uneven, disjointed but engrossing thriller directed by Welles with characteristic bravado.
- THE ADVENTURES OF ROBIN HOOD (1938)**
BBC1, 3-4.40pm
Errol Flynn and his Merry Men in Hollywood spectacle at its best, a dashing kaleidoscope of galloping horses, clashing swords and zinging arrows.
- THE BRIDGE ON THE RIVER KWAI (1957)**
BBC2, 4.40-7.15pm
David Lean's polished epic about the tensions between British soldiers and their Japanese captors in a Burmese prison camp, with a sharply etched performance by Alec Guinness.

- * GANDHI (1982)**
BBC1, 7.15-10.30pm
Richard Attenborough's carefully crafted and sumptuously mounted biopic of the little man in the kilt, knitted together by an extraordinary performance from Ben Kingsley.
- SERPICO (1973)**
BBC2, 10.30pm-12.40am
Al Pacino as a New York cop with a conscience, battling against corruption in the force. Convincing recreation of a true case, atmospherically directed by Sidney Lumet.
- MONDAY**
- GREEN FOR DANGER (1946)**
Channel 4, 2.35-4.15pm
Al Pacino in top comic form as an eccentric police inspector on the murder trail in a wartime hospital. With Trevor Howard, Rosamond John and Leo Genn.
- CHIMES AT MIDNIGHT (1986)**
BBC2, 3.45-5.35pm
Orson Welles's boisterous, funny and ultimately touching portrait of F. Scott Fitzgerald, drawn from the Shakespeare plays, shot hand-to-mouth in Spain. Memorable support from John Gielgud (as Henry IV) and Margaret Rutherford (Missus Quickly).
- * THE BLACK STALLION (1979)**
BBC1, 7-8.55pm
From the Francis Ford Coppola studio, a beautifully photographed story of a boy and his horse which gives lie to the claim that they don't make good family films any more.
- * RAGTIME (1981)**
BBC2, 9.10-11.40pm
Czech expatriate Miles Forman's loosely constructed adaptation of the E. L. Doctorow novel of America in the 1900s, rich in period detail and with chirpy cameos from the veterans James Cagney and Pat O'Brien.
- * CONFESS (1953)**
BBC1, 11.45pm-1.20am
Downbeat Hitchcock thriller.

- making strong use of its Quebec background, with Montgomery Clift as a priest who hears a murderer's confession but is bound by his vows not to pass it on to the police.
- NEW YEAR'S EVE**
- GONE WITH THE WIND (1939)**
BBC1, 2.40-5.15pm
Margaret Mitchell's best-selling novel of the American civil war translated by producer David O. Selznick and several directors into
- WATERLOO ROAD (1944)**
Channel 4, 2.35-3.25pm
Soldier John Mills losing his wife to wide boy Stewart Granger in wartime London.
- THE HAPPIEST DAYS OF YOUR LIFE (1950)**
Channel 4, 3.25-5pm
Sparkling screen version of John Dighton's stage farce about a girls' school having to muck in with a boys' school.
- THE FRONT PAGE (1974)**
BBC2, 8.15-9.55pm
The third film version of the famous newspaper comedy, with Walter Matthau in splendid form as the scheming editor, Jack Lemmon's reporter is a worthy foil.
- * ROCKY II (1979)**
BBC1, 9.55-11.50pm
A virtual re-make of *Rocky*, with Sylvester Stallone repeating his charismatic portrayal of the second-rate boxer who tries to topple the world champ.
- ANIMAL CRACKERS (1930)**
BBC2, 10.35pm-12.10am
Early Marx Brothers picture, often belittled for its stage origins but full of devastating one-liners.
- THURSDAY**
- HORSE FEATHERS (1932)**
BBC2, 11.10pm-12.15am
A college football match is the catalyst for one of the Marx Brothers' wildest and funniest romps, with even the musical interlude failing to disrupt the manic torrent of fun.
- FRIDAY**
- MONKEY BUSINESS (1931)**
BBC2, 11.15pm-12.30am
The Marx Brothers as ship's stowaways, trying to pass themselves off as Maurice Chevalier.

The prime time nativity play

TELEVISION

Scheduled inconspicuously between *The Benny Hill Show* and a disaster movie, *L'Enfance de Christ* (Monday, 9.15-11pm) is a rare slice of ITV prime time culture.

Not often does the people's network surrender to nearly two hours of oratorio, but let us be properly grateful. From Anthony Burgess out of Bertozzi, and following the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, it is a production of handsome images and dramatic staging.

Richard van Allan sings Herod, Fiona Kimm is Mary, William Shimell is Joseph and Benjamin Laxon the Ishmaelite Father. The music is played by the English Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Philip Ledger.

Penyborth (BBC2, today, 8.45-10.25pm) breaks new ground as the first Welsh language programme to be screened on the BBC network with English subtitles. It recreates the true story of the burning of an RAF camp near Penrhywedd by Welsh Nationalists in the 1930s.

Ben Kingsley, whose *Gandhi* gets its television premiere tomorrow (see Films on TV, left), can also be seen on



Political puppet: Mrs Thatcher, as seen in Spitting Image

Monday as George Eliot's *Silas Marner* (BBC1, 10.10-11.45pm). It is another of those costume dramas that television does so well, with Cotswold locations and support from Freddie Jones, Patrick Ryecart and Jenny Agutter.

Ian Holm and Judi Dench are becoming almost as much of a double act as *The Two Ronnies*. *The Browning Version* (BBC1, Tuesday, 9.20-10.35pm) sees them playing husband and wife for the first time this year, in a new production of Terence Rattigan's evergreen about a des-

pised classics master on the verge of retirement.

Still on drama, there is a two-part from French television on the life and loves of the writer, Colette (BBC2, Thurs and Fri, 9-10.30pm). She is played from middle to old age by Macha Meril, helped by the make-up artist from *The Elephant Man*, Christopher Tucker. *The Dynasty* cast is joined on Friday (BBC1, 8.10-9pm) by Barbara Stanwyck and Charlton Heston.

Talking of which, *Dynasty's* new Fallon, the British-born actress Emma Samms, turns up in *Barry Norman's Guide to American Soaps* (BBC1, today, 10.25-11.15pm), a watchable if unsurprising venture with contributions from Larry Hagman, Linda Gray and Stephen Ford, son of former President Gerald.

A more nostalgic look at popular entertainment is BBC2's salute to the cinema newsreels, *Around the World in Seven Minutes and Four Times* on Saturday (Tues, 3.45-4.35pm).

Connoisseurs of outrageous comedy can feast on two new offerings from *The Comic Strip* (Channel 4, Wed, 11-11.45pm and Thurs, 11-11.40pm) and *The Second Best of Spitting Image*, repeated golden moments from the puppet show (ITV, today, 10.35-11.35pm).

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 835)

Prizes of the New Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions entered. Thursday, January 2, 1986. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC9 9YT. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, January 4, 1986.

ACROSS

- Tolerant (4,7)
- Insult (7)
- Ingenious (5)
- Mineral spring (3)
- Siva's consort (4)
- Tunny (4)
- Dormant (6)
- Job (4)
- Pavement edge (4)
- Hold together (6)
- Nonsense poet (4)
- Impudence (4)
- Jewel (3)
- Taxi driver (5)
- Shoulder tag (7)
- Without pity (11)

DOWN

- Edible animal organs (5)
- Arab sailing boat (4)
- Social insects (4)
- Forearm bone (4)
- Gourmet (7)
- Trading world (11)
- Walk about (11)
- Indulge (6)
- Class (3)
- Wars lightly (6)
- Walk unsteadily (7)
- Barrel (3)
- Map book (5)
- Rotating disc (4)
- Muddle (4)
- Drag (4)

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____

SOLUTION TO No 834

ACROSS: 1 Dures 5 Office 8 TIR 9 Dimple 10 Getre 11 Onus 12 Punitive 14 Sundae 17 Skinny 19 Cachepot 22 Pale 24 Cinema 25 Assume 26 Nut 27 Embark 28 Excuse

DOWN: 2 Union 3 Exposed 4 Steeple 5 Organ 6 Foist 7 Caravan 13 Ink 15 Uranium 16 Ape 17 Salate 18 Impasse 20 Hyena 21 Flank 23 Lumen

THE WEEK AHEAD



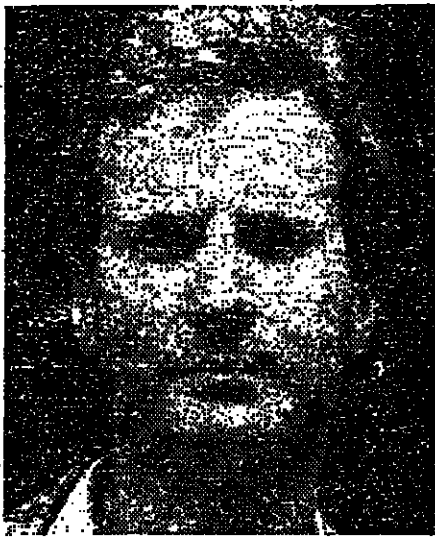
FILMS

PRESS GANG: Greta Scacchi stars with Gabriel Byrne and Denholm Elliott in *Defence of the Realm* (PG), a punchy British thriller about the politics and morals of Fleet Street, vigorously directed by newcomer David Drury and with David Putnam as executive producer. Odeon Haymarket (01-830 2771) from Fri.



CONCERTS

STRING FELLOW: Hu Kun, the 22-year-old Chinese violinist who won the 1985 City of Paris Menuhin Competition, appears with Sir Yehudi in a programme of Bach and Vivaldi. Hu Kun is making his first visit to Britain after a promising career on the Continent. Barbican Centre (01-638 8891), tomorrow, 8pm.



OPERA

FACTORY HAND: David Freeman is the man behind the Opera Factory's exuberant and stylish productions of rarely performed and new works. His much-lauded *La Calisto* is revived on Mon and from Jan 6 the company is presenting *Hell's Angels*, by Nigel Osborne. Royal Court Theatre (01-730 1745).



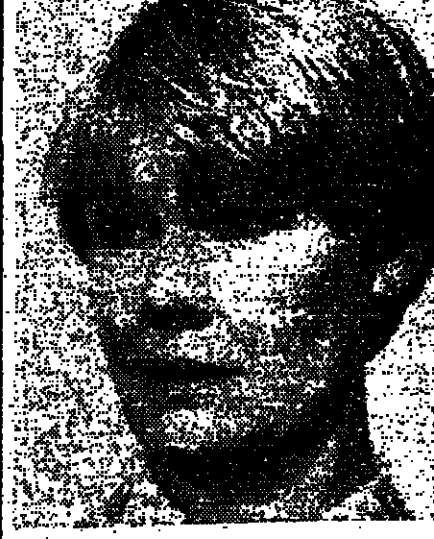
JAZZ

IN THE RITZ: Bertice Reading made a belated impact in London several years ago in an otherwise ill-fated musical devoted to the songs of Leiber and Stoller. In cabaret, singing standards and the blues, this diminutive but powerful singer should be sensational. The Ritz, Piccadilly, London (01-493 8181), Tues.



THEATRE

SUCHET TOUCHÉ: David Suchet brings to London his acclaimed portrayal of Iago in Terry Hands's production of *Othello*, first seen at Stratford in the autumn. With Ben Kingsley in the name part and Niamh Cusack, of the famous Irish acting family, as Desdemona. Barbican (01-628 8795), previews from Thurs, opens Jan 7.



TELEVISION

JUDI'S VERSION: Judi Dench, recently seen as Noel Coward's Mrs Edgell and currently working on a new production of Ibsen's *Ghosts* is becoming a frequent visitor to the small screen. On Tuesday she plays Millie Crocker Harris, wife of the retiring schoolmaster in *The Browning Version* (BBC1, 9.20-10.35pm).

THE TIMES CHOICE

GALLERIES

OPENINGS

FILM & STRIP: The Kettles Yard touring exhibition on contemporary British comic strips has come to London. Steve Bell, Biff and Christine Roche head a cast of cartoonists and animators. Air Gallery, 6 & 8 Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (01-278 7751), from Fri.

SELECTED

YOLANDA SONNABEND: Costumes and sets for the ballet productions by Sir Kenneth MacMillan and film (*The Tempest*) by Derek Jarman as well as paintings by an artistic Jill of all trades. Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2 (01-402 6075).

KURT SCHWITTERS: The most comprehensive display of work by the German painter, collageist, poet and performer ever assembled. Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (01-821 1313).

HALLELUJAH HANDEL: The 300th anniversary of the birth of the composer, with paintings, sculpture, engravings, musical instruments and scores. National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2 (01-930 1552).

THE HUMAN STORY: Billed as "an exhibition that took 35 million years to put on", it charts the evolution of man up to the present day and beyond. Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London W8 (01-602 0702).

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA: John Copley's revised production of *La Cenerentola* tonight at 7.30pm and Tues at 7pm. Jonathan Summers takes



the title role with Arno Söfje von Czer (above) as the Cherubino. Sir Colin Davis conducts. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1058).

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: John Copley's production of Handel's *Julius Caesar* tonight, Tues and Fri at 7pm. Christopher Robinson leads a strong cast. Sir Charles Mackerras conducts. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161).

OPERA NORTH: Today at 2.15 and 7.15pm David Pountney's

production of Rimsky-Korsakov's *The Golden Cockerel*. Puccini's *Girl of the Golden West* can be seen on Thurs at 7.15pm; and a handsome *Traviata* returns on Fri at 7.15pm. Grand Theatre, New Briggate, Leeds (0532 459351).

THEATRE

IN PREVIEW

LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES: Christopher Hampton's adaptation from the novel by Laclos, first published in 1782. Two aristocrats conspire to corrupt an innocent young girl. Howard Davies directs. The Pit, Barbican, London EC2 (01-628 8795/638 8891), Thurs, Fri, Jan 4, 6, 7. Press night Jan 8, in repertory.

OPENINGS

BEATRIX AND SIGMUND: Keith Sturges's imagined dialogue between Beatrix Potter and Sigmund Freud on Lake Windermere in 1921, in which they debate the meaning of *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*. Latchmere, 503 Battersea Park Road, London SW11 (01-228 2620), Opens Mon.

BRECHT ON MAGIC: First seen at the Edinburgh Festival this year, Ian Saville's show makes political theatre out of a combination of magic tricks, ventriloquism and theoretical discussion. Described as "... penetrating and witty - great fun", by *The Scotsman*. Gate Theatre Club, 11 Pembroke Road, London W11 (01-229 0705), Opens Wed.

SELECTED

THE DUCHESS OF MALFI: Ian McKellen is superb as the equivocal hiring Bosola in a grand revival of Webster's Jacobean shocker. With Edward Petherbridge, Jonathan Hyde, Eleanor Bron, Sheila Hancock and Roy Kinnear. Lyttelton (01-928 2252), in repertory.

OUT OF TOWN

BIRMINGHAM: Mother Goose: Danny La Rue, Lionel Jeffries, Isla St Clair, in a typically well-gowned production. Alexandra (021 643 1231), Opens Mon. No part Wed.

MANCHESTER: Jack and the Giant: Trevor Peacock's musical fantasy without inappropriate modern trappings, but with music and various circus tricks and illusions. Mervyn Willis directs. Royal Exchange (061 833 9933), Until Jan 4. No part Wed.

FILMS

OPENINGS

SILVERADO (PG): Writer-director Lawrence Kasdan attacks the western with four drifters confronting a town full of badasses. With Kevin Kline, Scott Glenn, John Cusack. The Leicester Square Theatre (01-930 5252).

FIRE FESTIVAL (18): Arawakan and striking Japanese film by Mitsuo Yanagimachi, describing in graphic

detail the battle between traditional life-styles and modern civilization in a small coastal town. From Fri at the ICA Cinema (01-930 3647).

BLACK NARCISSUS (15): Deborah Kerr (below) experiences problems of the heart and mind in a Himalayan convent. One of the most potent and beautiful films in the Powell-Pressburger canon, made in 1947. From Fri at the Electric Screen (01-229 3694).



SELECTED

BACK TO THE FUTURE (PG): Overlaid fantasy from the House of Spielberg with an engaging central idea. Michael J. Fox stars as the modern teenager whisked back to 1955 when fashions - and his parents - were far different. Empire (01-457 1254).

AGONY (PG): Elton Klimov's powerful portrait of Russia in revolutionary turmoil, with a virtuoso performance from Alexei Petrenko as Rasputin and ingeniously used archive footage. Camden Plaza (01-435 2443), Chelsea Cinema (01-351 3742).

DANCE

SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET: Opens Tues with a lively programme: Ashton's *Les Patineurs*, Fokine's *Petrushka* and a Petipa suite from *Paquita*. The repeats Wed, Thurs; then *Coppelia* with Sandra Madgwick and Iain Webb in the leads (Fri). Sadler's Wells (01-278 8916).

ROYAL BALLET: *Giselle* this afternoon and Fri, *The Nutcracker* (Mon, Wed) and the season's first *Manon* (Thurs). Covent Garden (01-240 1066).

LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET: Two performances of *The Nutcracker* every day except Sun. Festival Hall (01-928 5191).

SCOTTISH BALLET: Performances of *The Nutcracker*, today and Mon (both matinee and evening), Tues matinee only, Fri matinee and evening. Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041 331 1234).

CONCERTS

LAST BACH: Ralph Kirshbaum plays the Solo Cello Suites Nos 1, 3 Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1 (01-935 2141). Today, 7.30pm.

KING'S CONSORT: "Christmas in Venice" is presented with instrumental and vocal music by Monteverdi, Gabrieli, Buonamonte, Bassano and others. Wigmore Hall, Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

STRAUSS NEW YEAR: Pieces by the various members of the Strauss family are played by the London Symphony Orchestra under John Georgiadis. Barbican Centre London EC2, Tues and Wed, 7.45pm.

BEETHOVEN CYCLE: The Beethoven cycle by Peter Frankl (piano), György Pauk (violin) and Ralph Kirshbaum (cello) continues. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-628 3191), credit cards (01-628 8800), Thurs, 7.45pm.

PAUL/LSO: James Paul conducts the London Symphony Orchestra in Borodin's *Polovtsian Dances*, Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*, and Augustin Dumay solos in Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto. Barbican Centre, Thurs, 7.45pm.

LESLIE HOWARD: This outstanding pianist offers Beethoven's "Moonlight" Sonata, a large Chopin group, Schumann's Arabesque and Tchaikovsky's Sonata Op 37. Wigmore Hall, Fri, 7.30pm.

ROCK & JAZZ

GEORGE MELLY: A surrealist's view of classic jazz and blues. Tonight and Mon-Jan 4, Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Firth Street, London W1 (01-439 0747).

LINDISFARNE: This north-eastern band's annual reunion is now a well loved Christmas institution. Tonight, Harrogate Centre (0423 64433); tomorrow, Birmingham Odeon (021 643 6101); Mon, Hammersmith Odeon (01-748 4081).

BILLY BRAGG: Bragg's abrasive moan is supported by Hank Wangford and Frank Chickens. Tonight, Birmingham Odeon (021 643 6101); tomorrow, Hammersmith Odeon (01-748 4081).

IN CAHOOTS: Hugh Hopper (bass guitar) and Elton Dean (saxophones) are joined by Peter Lemer (keyboards) and Pip Pyle (drums), all under the leadership of guitarist Phil Miller. Tomorrow, Bass Clef, 35 Coronet Street, London N1 (01-729 2476).

PIZZA EXPRESS ALL STARS: Mellow mainstream jazz. Tues, Pizza Express, 10 Dean Street, London W1 (01-438 8722).

PHOTOGRAPHY

THE JAPANESE GARDEN: Colour photographs which explore the many aspects of Japanese gardening from the formal and informal to the miniature and the symbolic. The exhibition, which is part of the Barbican's Japanese festival, also explains the importance of the Tea Garden as well as the use of stone and water over several centuries. Barbican Centre, Level 5, London, EC2 (01-638 4141). From Tues.

BOOKINGS

FIRST CHANCE

SCOTTISH OPERA AT EDINBURGH: Now booking for 1986 season. King's Theatre, 2 Leven Street, Edinburgh (031 229 1201).

BARBICAN LUNCHEON CONCERTS: Booking now open for third international series including performances by Peter Donohoe, Peter Frankl, Nigel Kennedy and James Galway. Jan-June. The Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-638 8891).

LAST CHANCE

UNFAMILIAR BURNES-JONES: Stained glass cartoons and other rarely exhibited work. Finishes tomorrow. City Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham (021 235 2834).

For ticket availability performance and opening times, telephone the numbers listed. Theatre: Tony Patrick and Martin Cropper; Galleries: Sarah Jane Checkland; Photography: Michael Young; Dance: John Percival; Films: Geoff Brown; Concerts: Max Harrison; Rock & Jazz: Richard Williams; Opera: Hilary Finch; Bookings: Anne Whitehouse.

The new man in Downing Street



Another actor is to play a leading role in politics.

Paul Eddington

tells Peter Waymark about life at the top

I thought I should wear a suit to meet a Prime Minister, even a fictional one. I was right. Paul Eddington was impeccably turned out, even if it was only a rehearsal. No jeans and sweat shirt for him but a smart jacket, crisp flannels and well shined shoes. Jim Hacker would approve.

"I am often asked if I base Hacker on a real person," says Eddington. "The answer is I do. That person is myself. He is as vain and greedy and easily swayed as I am. The main difference is that Hacker can bend to his civil servants. I lack his flexibility and for that reason would never make a successful politician."

Hacker has left behind him a none too brilliant career at the Ministry of Administrative Affairs and made it to Number 10. Sir Humphrey Appleby, the infinitely devious and usually victorious bureaucrat, has gone with him. *Yes Minister* is about to become *Yes Prime Minister*: Hacker's apotheosis.

"I think he has marginally grown in confidence," Eddington reckons, with seven of the eight episodes already in the can. "There are brief moments when he asserts himself and lays down the law. But then, almost immediately, he regrets it." Sounds very much like the same old Jim.

Eddington is cautious in his assessment of real prime ministers. "Harold Wilson was clever - and I don't mean that in a derogatory sense. I suppose I should say I admire Mrs Thatcher's inflexibility but that may not be a long-term asset if she is inflexible about the wrong things. Play about Denis Healey. I would like to have seen him as PM. Something to do with stature and breadth and weight. Jim Hacker is awfully light."

Since then Eddington's roles have been curiously reversed. On television it has been mainly comedy, in the theatre *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* for the National, *The Browning Version* and Stoppard's *Jumpers* - and "there are not many laughs in those."

Eddington lives the cliché about being one of Britain's busiest actors. Sometimes too busy, such as when he was playing George in *Virginia Woolf*, hardly off stage for three and a half hours; having to rehearse all over again when Joan Plowright fell ill; and doing a television series during the daytime.

His wife, Patricia, was an actress and helps him with learning his lines. Two of his four children have followed him

into the profession, though on the technical side rather than as performers. He doesn't get much time for relaxation.

Yes Minister was also thanks to John Howard Davies, by then the BBC's head of light entertainment. "He got out to find a new series for each of the four of us from *The Good Life*. I was offered *Yes Minister*. I read the scripts and was very much in two minds. I thought the appeal would be very small."

What he should have realized, he says, is that the show is not so much about politics as bureaucracy and everyone suffers from bureaucracy, whether in Libya, where the series is very popular, or Scandinavia or Australia. So far *Yes Minister* has been shown in 45 countries.

"I am particularly interested in the last two places to take the series, Norway and Finland, because both are on the border with the Soviet Union which can pick up their programmes. I would love to know what the Russians think about it. That's a bureaucracy par excellence."

For all its success Eddington is a little alarmed at the way *Yes Minister* has been received. "When we started, we set out to annoy absolutely everybody. Then Mrs Thatcher gave us an award - presumably for the cleanest show on the air - and Mrs Thatcher insisted on making the presentation. So clearly we had failed. But I think we will get a lot closer this time."

As to Eddington's future beyond Hacker, he admits that "I have only nibbled at the edge of the classics. I ought to go back to Shakespeare. I played Brutus twice and got endless fascination from it."

"One of the advantages of being an actor is that as some roles pass by, others become available. As *Romeo* sinks in the west, so *King Lear* rises in the east. I suspect I would be a bit lightweight for Lear. But it would be a wonderful challenge and I do find it difficult to resist a challenge."

ARTS DIARY

Done away with it

On the rebound from a major row with Cannon Films which has robbed her of her most cherished screen role, Faye Dunaway has turned for consolation to the stage. Directed by Harold Pinter, she will play the lead in the Hampstead Theatre production of *Circus and Brava* by the American writer Donald Freed. If the play is successful it will transfer to the West End from where, no doubt, Miss Dunaway will make a significant gesture back to the Hollywood moguls who, she says, ruined four years of her life.

Earlier this month Miss Dunaway made a noisy and tearful break with Cannon after two screenplays written by her from Tom Kempinski's play *Dues For One*, about a virtuoso violinist struck down by multiple sclerosis, were turned down. Although the film was to go ahead, she was told her husband, former Fleet Street photographer Terry O'Neill, would not be allowed to direct.

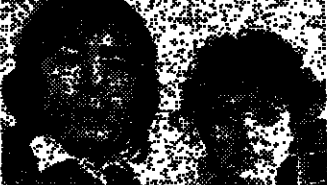
Big break

The film world was abuzz this week in expectation of the imminent arrival of Marlon Brando to take part in talks with United British Artists on a new production. In the end, the Fat One did not arrive and it is likely that UBA executives will go to see him in Los Angeles in the new year. The company is said to be planning its biggest film yet, an historical extravaganza with Brando at the centre. The signing would be a fantastic coup for the British film industry: Brando has not made a film in more than five years.

● The festive season has not gone entirely smoothly at the Garrick, the roccoco palace which some argue is London's finest club. Celebrated guests found the doors barred one night before Christmas as they tried to leave accompanied by an untidy flurry of activity from the club's servants. A mink coat was missing which led the killing thespians, awaiting the police, to speculate as to which West End production it is now appearing in.

Bright future

Sarah Brightman has landed another West End starring role in *The Phantom of the Opera*, the new piece by her husband, Andrew Lloyd Webber, which opens next year. The title-song, with Sarah and Steve Harley duetting, will be released in the new year - no doubt another resounding Lloyd Webber success. Just as well, then, that the



Lloyd Webber and Brightman maestro is reminded he has feet of clay. Seen last week conducting an orchestra in front of a 15,000 audience in Verona for the Classical Aid concert, Lloyd Webber appeared - and was - as nervous as a kitten. Totally unused to conducting, he was told brusquely by the singer Gwyneth Jones: "Just get out there and wave your arms about."

Cutting edge

The chill of a new year is almost upon us and further cuts can be expected in 1986. Early predictions include a new Arts Council idea - the Reducing Bursary. With this, the Royal Shakespeare Company will give us *One Gentleman of Verona*, the National Theatre will produce *The Cherry Orchard*, and the Old Vic will win sponsorship from a soap manufacturer for a production of *Macbeth*.

Christopher Wilson

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